

DC Gazette

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OCTOBER 1977

ESTABLISHED 1966. ONE OF AMERICA'S OLDEST ALTERNATIVE NEWSPAPERS

DC's war against pedestrians

HOW THE CITY MISTREATS TOURISTS *AND LOSES MILLIONS BECAUSE OF IT*

**HITTING THE BANKS
ON OVERDRAFTS**

VITAMIN C AND HEROIN

**AMERICA GOES BANANAS
OVER THE ARTS**

**RUN
LIKE
HELL**

Community Bulletin Board

ON OCT. 12, THE FRIENDSHIP NEIGHBORHOOD COALITION will hold its annual membership meeting. Starts 8 pm at the 2nd Police District, Newark & Idaho Ave. NW. Topics include the Friendship Sectional Development Plan.

THERE WILL BE A PREHEARING CONFERENCE ON A proposal to limit telephone communications in hostage-type situations on October 13 at 10 am at the Public Service Commission, room 314, 1625 Eye St. NW.

TENANTS IN DUPONT CIRCLE have formed an organization called Dupont Circle Tenants. Info: Herman Hochman, 332-7789.

GAMALIEL, the Catholic pacifist quarterly, devoted its summer issue to self-government in DC. For info call 265-7559.



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ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2D has opened an office at 400 Eye St. SW. The telephone number is 554-1795. An answering service will take messages 24 hours a day.

INACTION AND DELAY, indifference and hostility by the Office of Human Rights have prevented enforcement of the city's human rights law, according to a report released by the National Lawyer's Guild, DC Chapter. Copies of the report are available at the NLG office at 509 C NE. Phone 547-0880. Also available are copies of the committee's guide to the local human rights law.

WASHINGTONIANS FOR NON-SMOKERS RIGHTS, the Coalition for Clean Air and the DC Lung Assn., announce the availability of a Nonsmoker's Rights Directory. The guide gives detailed information on the legal rights of nonsmokers in the area and lists restaurants, museums, hospitals etc. where nonsmokers rights are recognized and enforced. To join WNSR and obtain a copy of the directory, send \$5 to WNSR, 1714 Mass. Ave. NW, DC 20036. Copies are limited.

WASHINGTONIANS who have homosexual friends or relatives in their lives whose welfare they care about are invited to join Friends of Gays. Committee meetings are held Thursdays at 7 pm at 1724 20th St. NW.

GEORGETOWN'S FIRST Montessori school opened last month. The Washington Montessori School is located at Grace Episcopal Church, 1041 Wisconsin Ave. NW. Info: Mrs. Kaemper at 333-3663.

POLLY SHACKLETON'S WARD THREE office at the Chevy Chase Community Center, 5601 Conn. Ave. NW, has resumed its fall schedule. Office hours are 10-4 weekdays and the telephone number is 686-5227. There is always a need for volunteers willing and able to devote three hours a week to the operation of this office, which handles all sorts of constituent problems.

FOR SOME TIME NOW, senior citizens have been applying at Polly Shackleton's Ward Three office for discount cards entitling them to reduced rates offered by a growing number of DC area merchants. Now Iona House Community Center has finished compiling an up-to-date directory of all such establishments, covering a wide range of goods and services. This new directory is available at the Ward Three office, Chevy Chase Community Center, and also at Iona House, 4200 Butterworth Pl. NW. To obtain a discount card, senior citizens are reminded that they must present their social security number and evidence of their date of birth. Holders of Medicare cards, however, do not need any additional identification.

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DC'S WAR AGAINST PEDESTRIANS

PART I: The oppressed majority

TO THE CASUAL observer he appears an ordinary resident, or perhaps a tourist. But to the trained eye of the DC police officer, half hidden in the crowd along F Street, the sudden turn and the furtive glance to either side is adequate warning that another of the city's thousands of street crimes is about to occur.

Unaware that he is being watched, the suspect moves swiftly across the street. Within moments the officer has moved in and charged him with violation of Sec. 52C. DC's finest have triumphed again. Another jaywalker has been apprehended.

Jaywalking is one of DC's most frequent crimes. More than 7,000 jaywalkers and other pedestrian violators are ticketed each year. The violations continue despite years of Officer Friendly talks in the schools, carefully coordinated publicity campaigns and aggressive enforcement. Last spring, the police even tried the incentive approach, giving out free tickets for Eggs McMuffin at McDonalds to "good" pedestrians.

It didn't seem to help. Perhaps Officer Elaine Woody, who spoke to a Post reporter about the Egg McMuffin tickets approached the target. Said Woody: "I'm supposed to give some of these things to motorists who yield to pedestrians in the crosswalks but you can get run over trying to reward them."

Precisely. Which suggests a radical theory. That crossing the street should not be considered a crime. That cars should yield to pedestrians under most circumstances. That the city should be designed to encourage walking rather than driving.

Of course, right now it's the other way around. The cars get the streets and a few pedestrians get the Egg McMuffin.

While the police were handing out their 7000 pedestrian tickets in 1976, for example, they gave only 243 tickets to motorists who violated pedestrian rights in crosswalks. During two months of last year only 4 such tickets went to drivers.

Check the time the 'Walk' signs are on at some downtown intersections and you'll find that pedestrians get about one-eighth of a minute to begin their journey across the street. If they don't make it to the corner in time, it's another seventy-second wait. There are places along Pennsylvania Avenue where you can't cross legally in one movement even if you hit the beginning of the light cycle.

Count the number of unticketed cars blocking crosswalks and sidewalks; construction fences that force walkers to the other side of the street; sidewalks in ill-repair, too narrow or missing.

Try to walk around the outside of Dupont Circle. How long does it take you? How many times did you almost get hit?

Watch an intersection downtown controlled by 'Walk-Don't Walk' signals. Notice the cars violating the 'Walk' signal and playing chicken with lingering pedestrians during the 'Don't Walk' cycle.

Even the statistics collected suggest the bias. I have before me a breakdown of 1976 pedestrian fatalities. There's a column on the right marked "HBD." Ten out of the 34 fatalities make that column. "HBD" means pedestrians who had been drinking, not drivers. They don't have a column for that. Another example: it is a possible hypothesis that one-way streets might be safer for pedestrians than two-way streets. Nobody officially concerned with these matters in DC seems to know, for the job is not to

make the lot of the pedestrian better, but to keep walkers out of the way of cars.

I found that out earlier this year, when as a member of our neighborhood commission, I attempted to obtain some street improvements in my district. Our local school sits on 34th Street, once a neighborhood road that thirty years ago was turned into a secondary arterial carrying two-thirds the traffic flow of Connecticut Avenue. The sidewalks are narrow and the intersections extremely dangerous because of the constant rush of traffic in both directions. Following a series of accidents along a four block stretch, the Department of Transportation sent a couple of their engineers out. When I pointed out that their department was timing traffic signals at a speed substantially above that permitted in a school zone, they pointed out to me that it was impossible to change the timing without causing a backup all along 34th. It was the police department's job to enforce the school zone speed limit. In other words, the police had one speed limit, the Department of Transportation had another. And DOT, which apparently views its prime function as the swift movement of commuter traffic, won out because its limit was determined by automatic signals, not by erratic human enforcement.

The danger to children walking along 34th Street and the difficulty of crossing 34th are only the beginning of a list of walker obstacles in my neighborhood. There are blocks with no sidewalks, a signpost stuck in the middle of the sidewalk with the sharp edge of the sign at about forehead height, and to cross Connecticut Avenue legally at the end of my street there is a minimum three minute detour because, for some obscure reason, crossing at that intersection is illegal.

In other words, a typical DC walking situation, symbolizing a city that says to its citizens if you want to get there safely and easily, go by car.

As Fred I. Kent III, president of the New York City's Project for Public Space, puts it: "The traffic lights in this city (NYC) are set solely for the benefit of taxis and private cars, with no consideration for anybody else. Why? Because the policymakers around here are traffic engineers, and they're interested only in moving cars."

I suppose we must say in the defense of the city that it now has a "pedestrian coordinator." It's a start. Before you get ready to do something about a problem in government, you coordinate it. DC's pedestrian coordinator is J.W. Lanum, a sensible fellow who understands the pedestrian's frustrations, but hardly a match, working out of a tiny office in the Muncie Building, for the highway lobby, his own colleagues in the Transportation Department, the police and the commuters, who long ago decided that pedestrians were to be contained rather than aided. Like a pedestrian, he'd be run down if he tried to cross them.

Even the term is deprecatory. Down the hall from Lanum's office, across from the elevator, someone had stuck up a bumper sticker announcing 'Pedestrian Awareness Week.' Someone else had written on it: "A week to be aware of the mundane." This city's pedestrian coordinator has trouble even getting the message to the elevator.

So maybe the place to start is to drop the term. We'll call ourselves walkers. And oppressed though we may be, we are the city's largest majority, consisting at one point or another of nearly everyone. Even the commuter walks to the of-

(Please turn to page 4)

Pedestrians created the world

Pedestrians should be loved.

Pedestrians comprise the greater part of humanity. Moreover — its better part. Pedestrians created the world. It is they who built cities, erected multi-story buildings, laid sewerage and water mains, paved streets, and illuminated them with electric lights. It is they who spread civilization throughout the world, invented book printing, gunpower, deciphered Egyptian hieroglyphics, introduced safety razors, abolished slave trade and discovered that 114 nourishing meals can be cooked from soybeans.

When everything was finished, when our beloved planet assumed a fairly habitable look, motorists appeared on the scene.

One should note that the automobile itself was invited by pedestrians but somehow the motorists forgot that very quickly. Gentle and intelligent pedestrians began to get squashed. Streets, created by pedestrians, were usurped by motorists. Roadways were widened to double their former size, sidewalks narrowed to tape width and pedestrians began to cower in fear against the walls of buildings.

In a large city, pedestrians lead a life martyrdom. A kind of transportation ghetto was set up for them. They are allowed to cross streets only at intersections, that is precisely in those places where traffic heaviest and where the hair by which a pedestrian's life usually hangs is most easily broken.

In our large country, the automobile, intended by pedestrians for peaceful transportation of people and goods, assumed the proportions of a lethal weapon. It puts out of commission row upon row of trade union members and their families and if, on occasion, a pedestrian succeeds in escaping from under the silver nose of an automobile, he is promptly fined for violating the traffic law.

In general, the authority of pedestrians has been shaken considerably. They, who gave the world such outstanding figures as Horatio, Boyle, Lobachevsky, and Anatole France, are now forced to remind the world of their existence.

*Ilf and Petrov
The Golden Calf,
Moscow, 1931.*

WALKING CONT'D

fice from the parking lot. And nearly 40% of the city's households don't even own a car. Most of the other families have only one car, leaving one or more members on foot a good deal of time.

But until fairly recently, nobody's tried to organize us. The drivers have the AAA, the bike riders the Washington Area Bicyclist Association, joggers the Jogging Association and the mo-peds are joining together to protect themselves. Even the handicapped have won more concessions from the city government in recent years than have the fully ambulatory.

The voices, though, are coming out of the wilderness. In 1976, a psychologist named Robert Sleight joined with a few others to form the Walking Association. Sleight comes from Arlington, the sort of place that makes a walker mad. Arlington has 352 miles of roads without sidewalks, almost half of its total street frontage. The Walking Association hasn't done anything especially dramatic yet, like staging a walk-in at 14th & Pennsylvania Avenue, but it's beginning to serve as a clearinghouse for information, has a newsletter and is, as well as can be determined, the first national organization to represent walkers. (You can get an introductory membership for \$6 from the Walking Association, 4113 Lee Highway, Arlington, Va. 22207)

There is also an International Federation of Pedestrians (61/111 Passage, The Hague, Netherlands). Last year, the IFP issued a policy statement summarizing the needs and rights of pedestrians:

"1. Pedestrians are two-thirds of all roadusers. In spite of this, the lack of rights of pedestrians still make them a minority group as compared to motorists.

"2. No road plans should be approved before there exists a complete plan for how the pedestrians and cyclists' problems should be solved in the same area, and these facilities should be created at the same time as the road for vehicles.

"3. Pedestrians must be guaranteed a safe passage both crossing and along the road.

"4. Playgrounds must be available with safe access.

"5. In 80% of residential and commercial areas, through traffic can and must be abolished.

"6. The legal position of the pedestrian as the majority group in traffic has to be strengthened."

Then there are the passionate letter-writers and the walker-activists like Frederick J. Lewis, a consultant here retired from the Highway Safety Administration, a person to whom the protection of walkers is "fundamentally a constitutional bill of rights issue."

Lewis sees the walker at a disadvantage in the traffic arena for a number of reasons: the walker doesn't have a rear view mirror or turn signals; lacks offset protection like the steel shell of a car; is in an area of confused noise; and is exposed to tension and apprehension because he or she can't move in a prescribed route.

Lewis says: "We're all pedestrians; we're born pedestrians," and believes pedestrians should always have the right of way.

One recent study suggests that walkers tend not to complain about their environment but react favorably to improvements to it. Acclimated to second-class status, they accept infringements on their movement, their lungs and their ears that anger someone like Lewis. But what if they knew that the noise levels to which they are often exposed on the street are hazardous to them, or that dozens of European cities had banned cars from areas such as that which they were bravely trying to traverse, that there was a better way of doing it?

What if walkers demanded fair treatment from the city government? In part II of this article we will deal with some possible answers to these questions.

- SAM SMITH

WALKING FACTS

A WALKER-ORIENTED CITY is also a transit-oriented city. As GWU's professor Sherwin Greene puts it, Metro is part of the city's pedestrian system. For example, almost all of downtown is within a half-mile walk of a subway. The city should increase Metro ridership and reduce pollution and congestion downtown by redesigning the central core for the benefit of the transit rider-walker but shows few signs of doing so at present. The car remains king and public transit ridership is at levels about those at the beginning of the century.

SEVENTEEN percent of the region's street mileage carry 76% of the traffic.

NATIONALLY there are 400,000 pedestrian injuries annually and 10,000 fatalities.

ELDERLY and school age walkers use the streets most frequently. They also account for most of the walker fatalities.

NOISE levels above 60-70 DBA are harmful to the walker. Average traffic noise level is 70 DBA, heavy traffic is 100 DBA.

WALKERS account for more than half the traffic fatalities in DC each year. Forty percent involve children under ten, 17% persons 65 or older. Forty percent of the city's walker accidents take place in an area bounded by 6th Street NW on the east, 21st Street on the west, Constitution Avenue on the south, and Upshur Street on the north. Almost half the accidents occur between three and seven pm. Most dangerous days are Tuesday through Fridays.

A STUDY done in New York City found that bus and subway users would walk two thousand feet to avoid paying the 50¢ fare whereas drivers would walk only 500 feet to avoid paying a dollar more for parking.

LOCALLY, about 40% of the walker accidents involve what is known in transportation jargon as a "dart-out," such as someone crossing the street between two parked cars. The "intersection dash" accounts for about ten percent.

A SURVEY of twelve malls all over the country found that all had increased in retail sales, pedestrian traffic and property values. Increases averaged 15-20% for retail sales, 50-60% for pedestrian traffic and 30% for property values.

ACCORDING to the President's Council on Physical Fitness "Walking is the exercise in which adults engage most frequently; 21 to 24 percent of the men and 18 to 25 percent of the women reported daily walking." Added the Council: "A major need is to make easily accessible paths for . . . walking."

IN the United States, 20% of all traffic deaths are pedestrians. In Europe this figure is 30%.

FROM 1965 to 1975 the per capita pedestrian death rate increased by 20%.

IN a DC study done from 1963 to 1972, it was found that 61% of all fatal accidents occurred when the pedestrian was committing a violation or unsafe act.

THE majority of adult pedestrian fatalities are persons who have not been licensed to drive.

MALE pedestrians comprise more than two thirds of all pedestrian accident victims, including fatalities.

ALCOHOL is a contributing factor in about one-fourth of all pedestrian deaths.

ABOUT 90% of all child accidents occur at times other than when children are on their way to school.

AT the time of collision, 34% of pedestrians are crossing, but not at an intersection, 16% are crossing at an intersection, 11% are behind a parked vehicle, 4 1/2% are walking, 6% are playing. Some of the more amazing activities at the time of collision are: 6 1/2% - standing; 4 1/2% - not in the road; 0.4% - lying down.

PEDESTRIAN casualties triple with darkness, and increase three fold with rain.

LARGER cities have higher accident rates than smaller ones. In 1973, in cities over one million, there were 5.1 fatalities per 100,000 residents, but only 2.6 per 100,000 in smaller cities.



DC EYE

THE MAYOR IS "OUTRAGED". Sterling Tucker is incensed. But relax. You don't have to be incensed. It's just the start of the mayoralty campaign. The politicians are coming out of hibernation and greeting the new season with an agitation that makes you wonder if they are mainlining Red Dye #2. The same guys who for four years have faced with equanimity crises in housing, pollution, unemployment, health and transportation are now being shocked, dismayed and upset. And what is it that has them thus? Crises in housing, pollution, unemployment, health and transportation? Of course not. The mayor is incensed because his political opponents are trying to have him shuffled off to some land as an ambassador. Sterling Tucker is incensed because John Risher wants to throw him out of office, and because some restaurant chain wants to open an eatery called "Sambo's." These, in case you have forgotten, are what we call "issues" in political campaigns.

Even Doug Moore has an Issue. He accused his colleagues — who refused to back his plan to ban the employment of homosexuals in penal and other institutions where children and the handicapped are kept, of falling into "the hands of the fascist faggots." Moore is running for city council chairman.

Marion Barry, at this writing, hasn't decided what he is running for and consequently doesn't have his adjectival adrenaline flowing fully yet. The best he could come up with, following Moore's tirade, was, "I could say that I'm shocked, but I'm not shocked by anything my colleague does. I'm disturbed."

No doubt, before the season is over, Marion will be shocked by something. And he, too, will have an issue. So sit back and enjoy it and view unalarmed the sudden proliferation of politicians viewing with alarm. But don't be too hard on them. It's just their way of saying that they want you to like them.



AND NOW A REAL ISSUE, i.e. one that directly affects us. We received the other day a "Disconnection Notice" from Pepco, our friendly neighborhood lamplighter who is seeking yet another raise in rates from the Public Service Commission. The strange thing about this notice is that it was sent only 28 days after the first rendering of the bill. There was no second notice, no friendly reminder, just a nasty threat on the familiar pink and yellow paper.

Earlier this year, when we had received a "Disconnection Notice" just forty-five days after the first bill, we engaged in correspondence with Wil Stratton of the Public Service Commission. Wil explained that it was all according to Hoyle and the company's tariff and that the PSC encouraged Pepco to get the money owed it as fast as possible and pay its bills as late as possible. We wrote back saying this was also the principle on which we operated and that while premature dunning of the customer might improve the cash flow of Pepco, it also hurt the cash flow of the customer. It occurred to us that here was one more example of that basic question of American life: "Who gets the float?"

The answer is, of course, that most of the Gross National Float goes to large corporations, the government, and financial institutions. Second in line are officers of bodies such as, say, a Georgia



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bank. What's left over/ goes to the ordinary citizen. But the citizen share of the GNF is rapidly being depleted. The era of weekend check kiting is drawing to a close as banks demand longer and longer time to "clear" checks. They make it sound all very official and efficient, but isn't it a bit strange that the more computers banks install, the longer it takes for checks to clear?

Meanwhile, over at the Public Service Commission they are busy preparing a "people's bill of rights" that contains some substantial improvements for the ordinary utility customer. But they are still saying that a bill would be delinquent 20 days after it was mailed.

The thing that troubles us is that other businesses with which we deal are happy to get paid in thirty days. But then they are not "regulated" by the PSC. Which leads to the question: who is the PSC regulating? Pepco or us?

We think there's some confusion about this down there. To us, however, it's a simple matter. If God had wanted bills paid in twenty days he would have made the year 240 days long.

OUR JOURNALISTIC AWARD OF THE MONTH goes to Bill Spaulding who sent out a news release with this hard lead: "You can thank Councilman Bill Spaulding (D-Ward 5) for showing leadership in introducing emergency legislation to give citizens relief from over burdening water bills."

THE JOURNALISTIC IMPROVEMENT AWARD goes to the District Building press, which has finally caught on to the fact that when the mayor says he isn't going to raise taxes next year, it doesn't mean much. Both the Star and the Post gave up-front play to the sizable increase in property assessments that was implied in the budget. The mayor is technically correct. He doesn't plan to raise taxes (or at least we'll take his word for it). But as long as assessments can be pushed up by housing speculation and by closing gaps between assessed value and market value he won't have to.

The assessment tool is just one of those hizoner can use to avoid a tax increase. In the past few years, for example, he has made liberal use of the gimmick of changing the payment date of taxes. If you can slide taxes from the first quarter of one fiscal year to the

ENDORSEMENTS

THE Gazette recommends ANTON WOOD for one of the two at-large seats on the DC School Board. Wood is chair of ANC 6A, a longtime active member of the Statehood Party, fighter for all varieties of good causes, and a sensitive and intelligent person. He is also a former associate editor of the Gazette, so discount our words accordingly and vote for him anyway.

In Ward Three the Gazette recommends CAROLE SCHWARTZ because, on the whole, she has done a competent and effective job. Her opponents would probably do so also; it is simply a matter that there is no good reason for the voters of the ward to turn their back on Schwartz.

Finally, the Gazette recommends a YES vote on the initiative and referendum charter amendments.

last quarter of the previous one, you've got a hefty one-time gain that makes your budget look good. The city is also moving into charging fees for formerly free services, such as ambulance assistance. But, you see, that's not a tax increase. This year the mayor is looking for \$20 million in increased parking enforcement. Sounds good - but it amounts to nearly \$30 for every adult and child in the city. Yet another technique is to change rate structures as the mayor and council did with the water and sewage charges not so long ago. At the time, the Gazette was the only media to point out the fiscal impact of this on the ordinary citizen. Now that people are getting their bills, they are learning what the innocuous term "flat rate" means.

And, finally, when all else fails, you just follow the example of the Department of Environmental Services and sent out wrong bills. Like the two ladies on Capitol Hill who received a \$6000 water bill for their row house. To add insult to injury, the water people followed up their complaint with a letter saying they had checked their line for leaks and, having found none, would expect their payment in ten days. After WTOP-TV got hold of the story, Herb Tucker of DES said he would put "a team" on the case.

So who needs tax increases? In fact, who needs the term? Perhaps something different like "per-capita payment to the city government" would make more sense. Now there's an interesting figure. It's about two and a half times what it was when Walter Washington first took over the city government.

DESPITE the mayor's aforementioned outrage at efforts to find him an ambassadorial post, there is still talk of such matters in the District Building, especially since yet another scandal may break water soon. It's one of those campaign contribution things. We hear two lawyers in the corporation counsel's office are on the case, trying to make sure no harm comes to hizoner, since John Risher doesn't want Sterling Tucker to become acting mayor, foreclosing the opportunity for other aspirants (such as himself) from making the race. A key witness has reportedly left the country. It's all very hush-hush as we go to press, but the DB is definitely worried.

IN THE OCTOBER ISSUE of Penthouse, Abbie Hoffman gives a first-hand account of a recent tour he took of FBI headquarters here. At one point, Hoffman reports, the tour guide told the group what they should do if they happened to spot a wanted fugitive. Hoffman is wanted by the FBI on cocaine selling charges.

WE visited Boston, the mass transit mecca, this summer and spent a good part of the day riding subways, buses, traditional streetcars and the new articulated light transit vehicles that we have proposed from time to time as an alternative to the subway here.

Boston is a horrible city in which

to drive, but moving around by mass transit is a delight. At 25¢ a ride (10¢ for children), frequent service, and an amazing network of surface and subsurface rail, Boston's system more than holds its own against the squeaky clean Metro. Boston's system is certainly squeaky - strange squeals, rumbles and generators going rub-a-dub, rub-a-dub echo through the dark tunnels - but it certainly isn't clean. Yet it works. And the ridership is obviously more demographically diverse than DC's expense account lunch shuttle.

To be sure, there would be no way to duplicate Boston's underground street car system, let alone the subway, at today's prices, but what is fascinating about the Boston system is its eclectic nature. Trollies run on streets with cars, in separate surface rights of way and underground. Cars are stored on a siding in the middle of a major avenue. It lacks the neat order of Metro - at times it looks like the sort of maze a model rail-roader would dream of, but it does the job.

And it is obviously run - unlike Metro - on the presumption that things do go wrong from time to time. At the end of the day, we were on an old streetcar, deep in the bowels of the city near Park Street. The streetcar in front of us broke down. In DC it would have been a crisis. In Boston, our conductor simply coupled his car to the one ahead and pushed the disabled vehicle into Park Street. The whole maneuver cost us about two minutes, a stunning reminder of the limits of technology and a tribute to a system that is prepared to get people to work even when the machines don't want to.

(Please turn to page 19)

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THINGS TO READ THINGS TO DO

FROM THE WASHINGTON PEACE CENTER:
Last year Senate Bill 1, the repressive recodification of the criminal code designed by Nixon and Mitchell, was allowed to die in committee when its backers became convinced that it would be impossible to pass the bill. Senator McClellan, the major backer of S.1., and Senator Kennedy, the leader of the liberal opposition to S.1, spent the past year working on a compromise version of the bill, which was introduced in May of this year as S.1437 (HR 6869). Strong administration support for the bill was evidenced by the attendance of Attorney General Griffin Bell at the press conference announcing the bill.

Though some of the more repressive features of S.1 have been removed from S.1437, most of the changes are merely cosmetic, and many of the features dropped have been introduced independently by S.1 backers. S.1437 would still make many of the activities of peace organizations and labor unions illegal, and curtail many Fifth Amendment rights. A coalition of right-wing and liberal forces are pushing the bill through Congress with a minimum of publicity.

Last year, the consensus of people working against S.1 was that the bill was basically unamendable, and that, much as the criminal code needs to be rewritten, the present Congress was not the body to do such a revision. The same is true of S.1437, only the task of stopping it is complicated by the low-profile approach of its backers, the administration support, and the splitting-off from the bill of the most oppressive elements of S.1.

Write your Senators and Representative, and urge them not to vote for S.1437. If you are interested in learning more about S.1437, or in helping work against it, contact Jay Miller at the national office of the ACLU, 410 1st St, SE, DC.

FROM: RESEARCH GROUP ONE, 2743 Maryland Av., Baltimore, Md. 21218: Our latest pamphlet, "For Democracy Where We Work," is now available. Prepared by David DeLeon of the Great Atlantic Radio Conspiracy, the report is a review of the arguments and evidence for the viability of workers' self management. It sells for 85¢ plus postage of 25¢. Bulk discounts are available.



AMERICA GOES BANANAS OVER THE ARTS

BILL SIEVERT

THE hot dogs and beer may be missing, but museums are outdrawing major league baseball in eight cities from Atlanta to Seattle. Opera is luring more fans than the National Football League in Houston and New York City. And symphonies are attracting larger crowds than pro-football in 10 cities, including NFL strongholds Pittsburgh and Dallas.

As such crowd comparisons — compiled last season by the Media/Arts Institute in Washington, DC — indicate, the fine arts are experiencing an unprecedented explosion in popularity in the US. Supporters of the arts call the current boom a "cultural renaissance" — the beginning of a new era in which Americans will seek satisfaction more from human resources than from dwindling physical resources.

"There is a sense that only so much satisfaction can be gained from an accumulation of material objects," explains Michael Newton, president of the American Council for the Arts in New York City. "I think the energy crisis has lent weight to this sense of the finiteness of physical resources. People are tending to invest more of themselves and take more pride in human resources."

"Americans want something more from life," agrees Jill Steiner, formerly public relations director for the Oakland Museum and now a program analyst specializing in the arts for the Mary C. Skaggs Foundation of Oakland, Ca. "They've seen an increase in their leisure time and their income. They've got a job and union protection, and their educational level is going up. But they have little in the way of a heritage."

"To an Italian," Steiner notes, "opera is like rock 'n roll is to us. To the French, great painters are like billboards are to us. I see the growth of the arts in the US as a desire to create a heritage for ourselves."

The boom is resounding in smaller towns as well as larger cities and includes spectators and performers alike. According to figures issued earlier this summer by the National Endowment for the Arts, the number of professional orchestras has nearly doubled from 58 to 110 in the last decade. The number of professional opera companies has increased from 27 to 45; professional and developmental theaters from 22 to a startling 145.

And the number of professional touring dance companies has more than tripled from 27 to 82. Including local and resident troupes, dance has seen the greatest rise of any performing art form with more than 350 companies now in existence nationwide.

BILL SIEVERT is a frequent contributor to the *Chronicle of Higher Education* and other national publications. He is former education editor of *The Saturday Review*.

There are no firm statistics on amateur performances, but the consensus among observers of the arts is that they also are skyrocketing in number and in quality.

"It's very much like an ocean," says John Gingrich, president of the American Association of Dance Companies in New York. "We know there are new companies forming all the time, and the turnout for audition calls is often staggering, but we can't keep count of every wave. We do know that dance is growing both as recreation and vocation and that there's been a tremendous push in the South, West and Midwest."

Ironically, the one factor most responsible for the arts boom appears to be television. Although the small screen has been blamed for every social ill from street violence to poor reading skills among America's youth, it also is being credited with bringing fine arts performances to a large segment of the population that otherwise might never experience them.

"Earlier generations simply were not exposed to arts, except some generally mediocre local performances," says Gingrich. "TV has had the impact of creating a celebrity and star system. When someone like Rudolph Nureyev comes to town, it's an event. After people see Nureyev, they tend to try out other ballet and dance performances when there are no superstars in town."

Gingrich points to an audience survey conducted for the renowned Joffrey Ballet following its performances on the "Dance in America" series for public television two seasons ago. The survey found that a majority of persons attending the company's live performances were first-timers who originally had seen the Joffrey dancers on television.

"My belief is that television is in large part responsible for the enormous explosion we're seeing in the arts because it has helped demystify the arts," Jill Steiner says. "It's made people realize you don't have to be part of the mink-coat set to appreciate and enjoy the opera or ballet."

When the New York Metropolitan Opera Company presented "La Boheme" on public television last season, she notes, "more people were watching than had seen the play in its entire history."

As public interest in the arts has grown, so has government financing and support. This year the National League of Cities and the US Conference of Mayors both created task forces on the arts for the first time. And funding for the arts on the state level has risen dramatically "across the board," according to Arts Council President Newton.

Federally, arts administrators and supporters are pushing the Carter Adminis-

tration for a record \$220 million appropriation for the next fiscal year. They expect to receive at least \$180 million, compared to \$120 million this year and a paltry \$11 million a decade ago.

In demanding more public financing for their programs, arts administrators point particularly to the success of relatively new performing companies in smaller cities where traditionally there has been little public support: the sell-out crowds for the Santa Fe, NM, opera; the San Jose, Ca., symphony; and the Salt Lake City, Utah, dance ensemble, to name a few.

Many of the new supporters of the arts are young adults who have turned in their rock 'n' roll shoes for ballet slippers, or at least center-stage seats at the opera. But credit for the explosion does not belong to youth alone, arts observers point out. Americans of all ages are making various art forms a higher priority in their lives.

The American Council for the Arts recently surveyed a demographically balanced sampling of the US population about the value of the arts in today's society. An overwhelming 86 percent of those surveyed agreed that the arts are "as important to a community as libraries, schools, parks and recreational activities."

Most young people, Jill Steiner admits, would "still rather go to a rock concert than the ballet, but a lot of them are realizing there's room for both in their lives. And more people of all ages are taking a chance. They're experiencing the fine arts first hand and then coming back for more." — Copyright PNS 1977

A FOOD/HUNGER CONFERENCE, tentatively entitled "The Hungry Planet: Who Controls It?" will be held Sat., Nov. 5 at Loyola College Conference Center in Baltimore. The purpose of the conference is to bring together interested and concerned people to exchange information and to plan organizing activities around the issues of food and hunger.

For additional information, contact Laraine Sommella at AFSC; 317 E. 25 St, Balto, Md., 21218, or call (301) 366-7200.

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AMERICAN JOURNAL

DAVID ARMSTRONG

IF ever two groups of people have seemed at impossible loggerheads, they are environmentalists and workers. Environmentalists, according to a stereotype popular among working people, are those high-toned types who love the trees and birds, but look down their upturned noses at mere humans. And workers, according to a similar notion among ecology activists, are those benighted slobs who will chop down, churn up, pave or pulverize anything, anywhere, for a paycheck.

Those are the stereotypes, and like all engrained ideas, they die hard. They are beginning to give a little, though, as environmentalists and workers discover that each has something to teach the other. Belatedly, environmentalists are beginning to understand that the workplace is part of the environment. For their part, working people (and a few unions) are starting to question whether the big money projects beloved by corporate America really provide the safe, plentiful jobs industry spokespeople claim.

"The myth that the workers 'have no right' or 'are not interested in' environmental issues is dangerous and wrong. In fact, the working class is the most affected when the environment is ravaged. Who lives in the most polluted areas of the world's huge cities? Who bears the heaviest noise levels? Who lives in the least congenial areas? The less endowed, of course."

So writes Jack Mundy, former head of the New South Wales Builders' Union and a communist. Mundy helped spark the Australian Green Bans, in which workers refused to work on projects they — and the communities for which the projects were planned — decided were ecologically unsound.

As a communist, Mundy's concrete commitment to environmentalism is all the more remarkable. Rooted in 19th-century European rationalism, strict constructionists of Marxism-Leninism have long had an almost mystical belief in the efficacy of science and the desirability of technological progress. This has carried over to the present where, in the US, the left has noticeably been slow to recognize the importance of the ecology movement, and in the Soviet Union, where a long term commitment to nuclear energy has helped ensure the entrenchment of socialism with a technocratic face.

According to figures compiled by the Sierra Club, Environmentalists for Full Employment and other groups, however, it is precisely those mammoth technological projects required to build nuclear power and coal-conversion plants that poison the biosphere and throw people out of work. Highly centralized, specialized industries, they rely on automation and often transient experts, having little need of less skilled locals.

In industry parlance, nuclear, coal-conversion and petro-chemical complexes are capital-intensive, requiring extremely high levels of investment to produce what jobs they do create. According to EFFE, clean, decentralized solar energy projects could produce four times as many jobs as nukes built at the same cost. And the ratio of regular workers to experts in the solar field would be much higher. There would be nine carpenters, say, or sheet metal workers for every highly trained solar engineer, creating jobs for a broad range of people. In the nuclear field, the ratio is two to one.

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TOPICS

1739 Connecticut Ave. NW (#2)
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In the face of increasing evidence to the contrary, corporate spokespeople insist that it's either the environment or jobs, and that interfering with business will wreck the economy. To advocates of social change, that argument has a familiar ring. It was used to oppose workmen's compensation, unemployment insurance, even child labor laws, when those reforms were seen to threaten profits.

Environmentalists further point out that the American economy is hardly booming as it is. The current recession is, for example, the sixth and most severe slump since World War II. Retooling the economy both to protect the natural world and create jobs is possible now, they say, beginning with eliminating wasteful habits of production and consumption. As proof that it can be done, they point to places like Saugus, Mass., where a trash disposal plant that services 300,000 people also manages to pay for itself.

What kinds of jobs could be created in a conservation-minded economy? According to EFFE, a study by the state of

Colorado "has estimated that 17 million private homes in America need ceiling insulation; 20 million need clock thermostats; 20 million need caulking and weathering; 10 million need storm windows." Including apartments and commercial and industrial buildings, the Colorado study says, such basic alterations could put up to 478,000 people to work.

Add to that the creative job possibilities generated by community recycling centers, the transfer of auto workers to public transit programs, the construction of more energy-efficient equipment, and the need for ecologically attuned architects, engineers and other workers, and the outline of a safe, labor-intensive economy begins to appear. Most such jobs, ecology activists contend, would employ medium-to-low skilled people on the small scale most favorable to democracy.

That profound transformation of American economic and social system is a long way off. But at least something like it is being discussed in embryonic alliances of environmentalists and labor. EFFE, the Sierra Club and others, for example, backed last month's nationwide Full Employment Week, to dramatize the Humphrey-Hawkins Bill. Humphrey-Hawkins calls for a reduction to three percent unemployment by 1981,

and the conversion to a real peacetime economy. It would authorize jobs in child-care, health and recreation, the rehabilitation of decayed urban areas, and federal funding for the handicapped and elderly.

In some localities, other broad-based coalitions are forming. In industrial Richmond, California, community activists have joined with the maverick Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers to urge adoption of an ecologically balanced city development plan. In nearby Oakland, Friends of the Earth are finding some common ground with the Black Panther Party, and the Sierra Club has come out against redlining.

These coalitions are tenuous, to be sure, and they fall well short of Australia's Green Bans. But in their first, tentative steps we may be seeing the beginning of the end of the distrust that divides those who do the world's work from those who would live lightly on the earth.

CITY LINES

THE planned Parenthood Organization has launched a drive to raise a \$3 million "justice fund" to guarantee free abortions for poor women.

The campaign comes on the heels of congressional actions which cut off abortion money available to women who are receiving federal funds for health care.

Planned Parenthood said it would also launch a nationwide effort to stop erosion of abortions which are still available in the US. The group said the "Justice Fund" will pay for the legal fees necessary to test in court areas of the law concerning abortions which are still unresolved.

NINETEEN-YEAR-OLD Edward Donohue recently filed a suit against his Long Island, New York school district because he graduated high school with a sixth grade reading level.

Donohue has received close to 300 letters from all over the United States recounting the stories of illiterate high school graduates, according to the New York Times.

"The Donohues do not expect to collect any money from this suit," said their lawyer Sidney Siben. "They just want to be sure that this does not continue happening in our schools."

A RECENT STUDY BY THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTION suggests that revenue sharing has simply reinforced conventional political power relationships at the local level. The study examined 65 state and local governments and found only 13 that showed evidence of a redistribution of political power. . . Meanwhile, thanks to inflation and lack of growth in revenue sharing funds, the value in constant dollars of revenue sharing will have shrunk by fiscal 1979 to \$4.4 billion from \$5.3 billion in 1972.

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT is planning to fund three experimental neighborhood justice centers — as an alternative to the present court system, at a cost of \$150,000 each — coming from Law Enforcement Assistance Administration funds.

ECOCLIPS

A PANEL OF scientists, in a report to the National Academy of Sciences, warns that "highly adverse consequences" could occur if the world turns heavily towards coal as a source of fuel. The long term (two hundred years) dangers include a ten degree increase in global warmth, disruption of food production and a 20-foot rise in sea level.

GETTING ALONG

AN analysis of the voting records of women members of Congress indicates that things might be vastly different on the congressional Hill if women were equally represented there.

Only 18 members of the House of Representatives are women. There are no women Senators.

The General

SOME PEOPLE
ARE SAYING THERE'S
LIFE ON MARS!

BUT IT JUST CAN'T
BE LIFE AS
WE KNOW IT!

THERE'S SIMPLY
NO EVIDENCE
THEY HAVE THE BOMB!

An analysis, conducted by The Woman Activist, a Virginia bulletin, indicates that women tend to vote much more in favor of what might be classified as human rights issues than do their male colleagues.

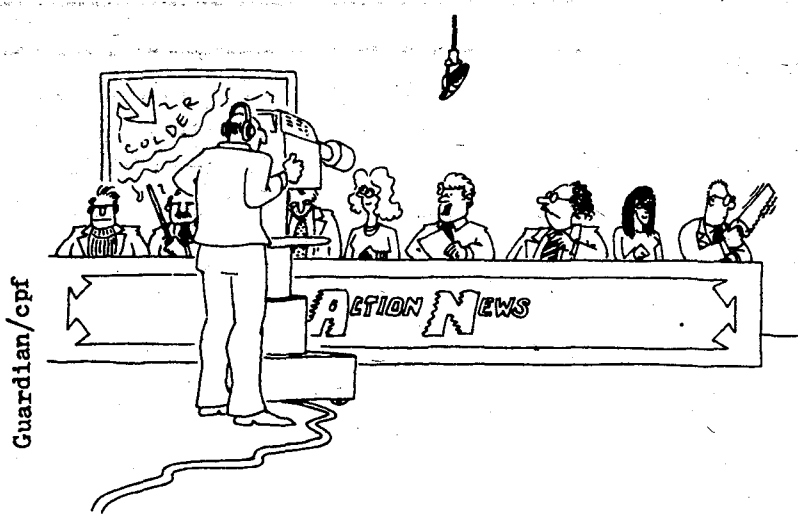
The analysis found that on the question of Vietnam amnesty, the house majority voted 54 percent against funds for the president's program. The woman majority vote was 75 percent for it.

On international human rights, the House voted 55.4 percent against forbidding loans to nations violating internationally recognized human rights, while women representatives voted 52.9 percent for it.

Women voted 68.7 percent against prohibiting legal assistance on controversies on the issues of homosexual rights. The House, on the other hand, voted 63.4 percent in favor of the prohibition.

And, on the issue of the Hyde anti-abortion amendment, the House voted 56.5 percent for the amendment which forbade the use of federal monies for abortion. Women members of the House, on the other hand, voted 68.7 percent against the measure.

Women also voted in favor of transferring defense monies to domestic programs, and for deleting funds for the B-1 bomber, while the full House voted against these cut-backs.



Guardian/cpf

'We'll be back in a minute with Harlan Harris' Sports Extra, Jules Bernmeier and the weather. Jimmy Cunningham's Entertainment Plus, Judith Enright's Fashion Notes, Grady O'Tool's Celebrity Interview, Maria Dellago's Budget Center, Murray Vaughn's Mr. Fix-It Shop, and me, Biff Brogan, with a note on the news.'

A STUDY of fatal traffic accidents has revealed very different driving histories for men and women drivers who died in the incidents.

Researchers at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, studying 1975 traffic deaths in Maryland, found that the male driver killed in a car accident was likely to have a long history of traffic violations and to have been drinking shortly before the accident. All the men studied were legally at fault in the accidents which killed them.

Most of the women drivers studied, however, had clean past-driving records. Almost 80 percent never had a previous speeding conviction, and none had ever been convicted of drunk driving. Most of the women, like the men, however, died because of their own driving errors.

These researchers concluded on the basis of the past driving records that the male drivers were noisy and boisterous compared to other men. The women victims, by contrast, socially were not unlike other women, except that they were "unlucky."

WOMENSPORTS, in its August issue, reported that both of the present women governors, one of the two women cabinet members, three of the four women mayors of major American cities, as well as the nation's 18 congresswomen, were tomboys when they were youngsters.

The magazine said that among the female politicians who climbed trees, played baseball and participated in other activities considered "boyish," were Connecticut Governor Ella Grasso, Washington Governor Dixie Lee Ray, and US Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Patricia Roberts Harris. Other former "tomboys" are Mayor Margaret Hance of Phoenix, Mayor Janet Gray Hayes of San Jose, and US Congresswomen Shirley Chisholm and Patricia Schroeder.

The magazine says it has found that many well-known women in the arts, education, music and show business were what it describes as "tomboys" who overcame sex-stereotyping at an early age.

KICKING the cigarette habit may be more difficult than overcoming an addiction to heroin.

Doctor Sidney Cohen of the Vista Hill Foundation in San Diego, California, reports that an experiment by Synanon, the anti-drug organization, has uncovered some interesting reactions to the tobacco habit. Cohen says a number of Synanon residents, who had successfully kicked their heroin habits "cold turkey," were then instructed by Synanon administrators to quit smoking as well.

Doctor Cohen reports that a number of the ex-heroin addicts were forced to leave Synanon because they were unable to quit smoking; others who did quit smoking, he adds, later reported that kicking heroin was less stressful than withdrawing from cigarettes.

IN the now-you-know department, the longest national anthem in the world gets played at the start of Mediterranean soccer games. The Greek national song has 158 verses.

A MINNEAPOLIS medical specialist says he has calculated that the average person eating a normal diet passes between 400 and 1200 milliliters of gas every day.

Doctor Michael Levitt of the University of Minnesota hospitals is one of the foremost experts on what is politely known as "flatulence," the breaking of wind.

Doctor Levitt, in fact is such an expert on the bodily gases and their behavior that he has become a much sought-after after-dinner speaker. He says he has found that, among other things, all humans in all cultures throughout history passed gas; he adds that the gas has been chemically analyzed and found to contain about 44 percent carbon dioxide; 38 percent hydrogen; 17 percent nitrogen; about 1.3 percent oxygen; and a dash of methane.

The Chicago Tribune, which originally carried this story, calculates that about 2.8 billion milliliters of wind is broken around the world each day. Says The Tribune: "That's enough to fill more than one Goodyear blimp."

AN Austin, Texas, company is out with "belly button fuzz."

The company, called Stonehouse Incorporated, says it is selling what it describes as "navel lint" because the fuzz is slowly disappearing. The company blames this reported belly button fuzz shortage on the use of synthetic materials in clothing. Such materials apparently don't produce as much lint as the old-fashioned clothes did.

Each box contains a cellophane package with a piece of fuzz in it; a bumper sticker; and a 12-page booklet which contains such items of interest as "the origin of belly button fuzz" and "how to tell what sign your fuzz is."

According to the company's founder, Doug Ham, who describes himself as a "navel picker," each box of the stuff sells for \$2.98.

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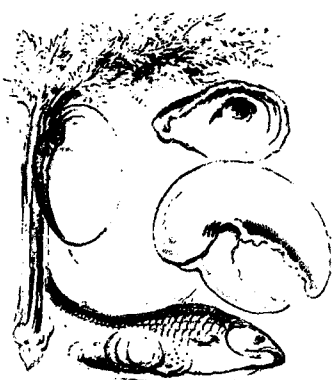
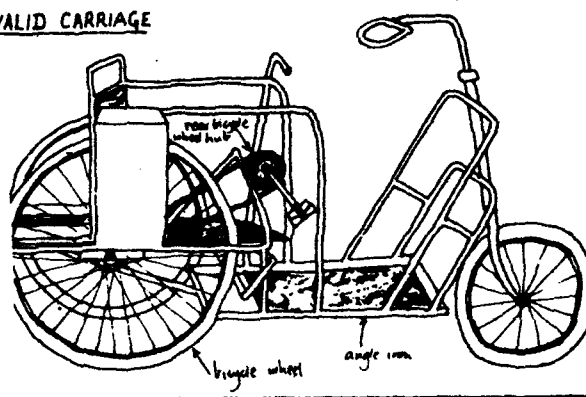
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INVALID CARRIAGE



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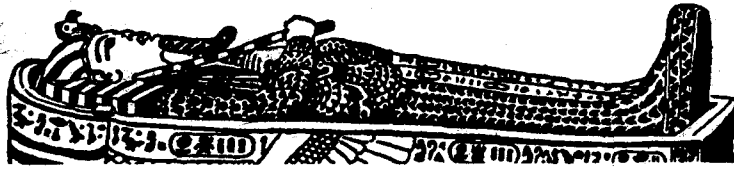
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NOTES FROM THE REAL WORLD

The overdraft issue

WHILE BERT LANCE'S BANK over-draft problems offer proof that even bankers sometimes foul up their checkbooks, two public interest attorneys in San Francisco have set out to prove that American banks are illegally reaping billions of dollars a year from ordinary Americans' bounced checks.

In a series of class action suits on behalf of California's millions of bank customers, attorneys E. Robert Wallach and David Baum have charged that the state's 15 largest banks have overcharged customers more than \$1 billion for overdrafts during the past four years.

One of the 15 suits charges that the Bank of America, which controls 35 percent of the California market, took in \$80 million from overdraft charges in 1976 alone. The suit seeks \$320 million in damages from the Bank of America for four years of the alleged overcharge.

The lawsuits contend:

- The banks' so-called "penalty charges" on over-drawn checks exceed by at least 10 to 25 times the actual costs of processing the overdrafts;
 - the bank's customer contracts, or "signatory cards" - which all bank customers must sign - compel customers to agree in advance to these excessive charges;
 - that banks routinely discriminate against holders of small accounts by charging them for overdrafts, while letting large-account holders off scot-free.
- The attorneys allege that the banks charge between \$4 and \$7.50 for every check returned to the customer for insufficient funds.

Yet according to bank documents acquired through discovery motions, the actual cost to the banks for handling bounced checks is only 30 cents per check.

The customer signatory cards - the 'contracts' by which the banks claim the right to impose the charges - are void under California law, say the plaintiffs.

They cite a section of the California Code stipulating that any contract that seeks to set a penalty in advance for a breach of obligation is invalid.

The only fee that can legally be charged, the lawyers claim, is the 30 cents it actually costs to process the check through the bank's computer. Any additional amount, they say, is an illegal charge.

In addition, the plaintiffs charge that the customers' signatory constitute an illegal "adhesion contract" - one imposed by an economically powerful institution on a customer who has no real choice but to sign.

Since all California banks impose fees in the same high range, a customer can't take his business elsewhere to get a better deal, according to this view.

An attorney familiar with the case notes that the outcome could have broad national implications for banking institutions.

"Besides the sheer size of the damages sought," says the attorney, "this case could set a precedent for similar class actions in other states. Along with the Bert Lance affair, it might also focus some attention on the way banks do business and bring about some badly needed regulatory reform."

Attorneys on both sides of the case have refused comment pending the court's

decision on whether to grant the plaintiffs' class action certification.

If Attorneys Wallach and Baum win certification, which could happen by late this month, preliminary arguments could begin in December. The number of class action plaintiffs is expected to reach about 10 million persons, or any California bank customer who has been overcharged for an over-draft in the period covered by the litigation.

Meanwhile, attorneys for the banks are filing demurs and legal pleas calling the suits' allegations "conclusionary, argumentative, irrelevant, immaterial, surplusage, and improperly pleaded."

Legal observers note that such cases often take years to maneuver through the courts. (PAUL ALLEN)

Hot button for the right

THE GAY RIGHTS CAMPAIGN and the forces behind a burgeoning new right political crusade appear to be on a collision course that could profoundly reshape the nature and intensity of American political debate.

Spearheaded by such groups as the Conservative Caucus, the Committee for Survival of a Free Congress and the National Conservative Political Action Committee, the new right has successfully exploited some of the hottest political issues of recent times in an effort to forge a new national conservative alliance.

"We're going after people on the basis of their hot buttons," says TCC Director Howard Phillips. Such hot buttons have included gun control, capital punishment, socialized medicine, arms limitations, the Panama Canal, abortion and the Equal Rights Amendment.

But one of the hottest buttons in recent months - and for the foreseeable future - is gay rights legislation. Presented as a threat to the traditional American family, the anti-gay campaign may have a broader and more natural appeal than any other conservative issue.

Even before Anita Bryant unleashed her anti-gay campaign last winter in Miami, the new right groups were finding considerable success in building what Phillips calls "Am-

erica's common-sense grass roots conservatives."

They claimed credit for the defeat of ERA legislation in both Florida and Indiana earlier this year and for initiatives in several states to limit abortion on demand.

They also took credit for the increasing number of conservatives in Congress. The CSFC now lists 121 representatives in its camp and boasts of electing Utah Republican Orrin G. Hatch to the Senate.

The gay rights issue has not only added impetus to the new right organizing strategy, but has prompted some national gay leaders to take their case directly to the people whom the new right is counting on for support.

When Anita Bryant's Save Our Children campaign was launched last winter, TCC's Phillips says, "we had talked about helping them go national." At that time SOC decided to work alone.

But Phillips admits his organization remains "in frequent contact" with key people in SOC and is prepared to help in any possible way" now that a national campaign is gearing up.

"What's most frightening to us is that gay rights are the new emotional issue to be exploited by the power-strivers of the new right," says Robert McQueen, editor of the national gay newsmagazine *The Advocate*.

"Miami taught us that the organization and propaganda tactics of the far right are highly effective. The new right represents a growing threat to human rights and individual freedom," he says.

Assemblywoman Elaine Nobel of Massachusetts, a lesbian, agrees. "The anti-ERA people, the Anita Bryant people, the pro-gun people, the right-to-lifers — they are all the same. . . Like with the Jews in Nazi Germany, they pick on the people who look like easy pickings." Noble believes that unless gays can develop some political muscle, history could repeat.

Richard Viguerie, chief fund-raiser and direct-mail specialist for such new right groups as the TCC, CSFC and the NCPAC agrees that gays and other "left" minorities have some reason to be concerned.

"Conservatives," he says, "are not going to be the patsies they have been in the past."

In less than two years, Viguerie has raised nearly \$4 million for conservative groups and is planning a major drive to elect conservatives to Congress in 1978.

"America's conservative majority" will wrest congressional control and federal monies away from supporters of "the women's lib movement, welfare rights groups and gay groups," says TCC's Phillips.

(BILL SIEVERT)

Vitamin C and heroin

FOR THE PAST DECADE, vitamin C — or ascorbic acid — has been touted for the cure and prevention of everything from the common cold to cancer.

Now, a group of California researchers — including Nobel laureate Linus Pauling — have stirred a public debate with their contention that massive doses of vitamin C, taken with minerals and protein, can cure even the most severe cases of drug addiction.

"Nothing has been done for the addict in the 117 years since morphine was first introduced in the United States, except to substitute one addicting drug (like methadone) for another (like heroin)," says Dr. Alfred F. Libby.

Libby, a chiropractor, says he has used vitamin therapy on 75 addicts at his Santa Ana clinic since 1974, and claims he has had no failures.

According to Libby, the basic treatment is simple, inexpensive and non-toxic. In the initial phase, the patient is given oral doses of 25-85 grams of sodium ascorbate a day, along with high doses of multi-vitamins, minerals and protein. This process lasts from four to 10 days, depend-



A Working Economy for Americans/cpf

ing on the patient's age, size and drug habit. Libby says it is administered in a "calculated and very controlled manner."

Libby's most startling claim is that the addict not only loses the craving for narcotics, but is actually unable to get "high" after receiving a massive dose of vitamin C.

"Should a fix be taken," he says, "it is immediately detoxified and no high is produced. It is like injecting plain water."

According to Libby's colleague, San Jose biochemist Irwin Stone, "There is a great improvement in well-being and mental alertness. In a few days appetite returns and they eat well; they have restful sleep and the 'methadone-constipation' is relieved."

Addicts reportedly suffer few of the discomforts of withdrawal.

"I'd be perhaps a little more cautious in saying that large quantities of sodium ascorbate can detoxify heroin immediately," says Linus Pauling. "But I think there's no doubt that very large doses of vitamin C will relieve addiction."

Dr. Pauling, 76, winner of two Nobel Prizes — for chemistry and peace — has received international acclaim for his research on proteins, DNA and sickle-cell anemia. But his recent theories linking vitamin deficiency to the common cold, flu and even cancer have made him a controversial figure in the scientific community for a decade.

Dr. Libby admits that the medical profession may scoff at his work in the Santa Ana clinic. "It's a little difficult to accept the notion that vitamin C can cure heroin addiction. I don't have any addicts who come here who aren't skeptical — and why shouldn't they be?"

"But it would have taken a chiropractor to come up with this," Libby adds. "We're trained differently than medical doctors. We're very deep into body chemicals, and, because of the restrictions of my license, I had to look at something besides drugs."

Libby and Stone have pioneered the theory of orthomolecular medicine, which is the use of vitamins and other natural substances instead of drugs to treat and prevent certain diseases.

Stone's theory is that all human beings suffer from a generally undetectable form of scurvy — what he calls "hypoascorbemia" — a vitamin C deficiency — but that drug addicts and cancer patients have it to a much more severe degree.

"Humans carry a defective gene that prevents us from making ascorbate like other mammals," Stone believes. "We actually need thousands of milligrams of vitamin C a day, instead of only 45 milligrams as the nutritionists say. Addicts are suffering from severe lack of vitamin

C, as well as protein deficiency due to lack of proper diet. We have to correct this with massive doses."

Stone, Libby and Pauling contend that every adult should take about 10,000 milligrams (or 10 grams) of vitamin C daily to prevent cancer and other diseases.

(MARK SCHWARTZ)

Does death penalty cause crime?

William C. Bailey, a Cleveland State University sociologist, has surveyed crime statistics in 42 states and found that, on the average, more people kill each other in states that have the death penalty than in states without it. This is true, he says, even allowing for regional, cultural and other differences.

For instance, in 1968 those states which had abolished the death penalty experienced an average of .21 first degree murders per 100,000 population. States with capital punishment saw nearly three times as many first degree murders — .58 per 100,000.

Roughly the same statistical spread holds up for second degree murder, homicides and total murders.

The explanation, say Bailey and others is that capital punishment offers certain types of deranged personalities an acceptable means of suicide.

The death penalty "becomes a promise, a contract, a covenant between society and certain . . . warped menialities who are moved to kill as part of a self-destructive urge," says Dr. Louis Jolyon West, head of the department of psychiatry at the University of California at Los Angeles.

Experts disagree on why support for the death penalty has greatly increased in the past 10 years, but most say that a major reason is the increase in crimes of violence. A fearful public, they say, looks to the death penalty as the most effective deterrent.

Yet West claims that capital punishment "breeds more murder than it deters."

"These murders," he says, "are discovered by the psychiatric examiner to be — consciously or unconsciously — an attempt to commit suicide by committing homicide. It only works if the perpetrator believes he will be executed for his crime."

West says he knows of cases in which "the murderer left an abolitionist state deliberately to commit a meaningless murder in an executionist state, in the hope of forcing society to destroy him."

Gary Mark Gilmore, who was executed Jan. 17 by a firing squad in Utah, is often cited as an obvious example. Some of his prison psychiatrists said Gilmore sought out his own death by murdering two young men in senseless, execution-style slayings. Following his conviction, Gilmore demanded the death penalty be carried out despite the many objections of his attorneys.

West cites other examples:

- In 1965, a Texas farmer walked into a roadside cafe with a shotgun and blasted to death an Oklahoma truck driver he had never seen before. He said later, "I was just tired of living."

- In 1964, a lifer in an Oklahoma prison escaped and went on a spree of violence. After he was recaptured he petitioned the court to have him electrocuted, complaining that the state had gone back on its word three years before when he pleaded guilty to a murder, but was spared.

- In 1958, James French killed a motorist who gave him a ride in Oklahoma. He asked for the death penalty, but his public defender successfully pleaded for a life sentence. Later, in state prison, he deliberately strangled his cellmate.

According to West, "During a psychiatric examination in 1965 French admitted to me that he had seriously attempted sui-

cide several times in the past, but always 'chickened out' at the last moment." (Gilmore also attempted suicide while in prison, apparently afraid his execution would be further delayed.)

"French's basic motive in murdering his inoffensive cellmate," West said, "was to force the state to deliver to him the electrocution to which he felt entitled and which he deeply desired."

In 1966, French became the only person to be executed in the US that year.

Many psychiatrists have long observed the intimate relationship between murder and suicide. West said that in England nearly half of all murders are followed by suicide attempts, of which two-thirds succeed. Thus, about one-third of all murderers in England kill themselves.

In Denmark, some 40 percent of murderers kill themselves.

Dr. Bernard L. Diamond, a psychiatrist at the University of California, Berkeley, says the relationship has been known for at least 200 years.

He cites a Danish law dating from 1767 that provides there should be no capital punishment for "melancholy and other dismal persons" who murder "for the exclusive purpose of losing their lives."

(JAMES SPAULDING)

The loophole reformers won't touch

THERE IS ONE TAX INEQUITY reformers are strangely silent about.

Unlike most defects in the tax structure, this one plays havoc with every one who pays taxes. It undermines our progressive tax system at its very core, not at the edges as most loopholes do. And it has no special interests defending it, which must make it the only outrage of its kind.

It is known as taxflation, or "bracket creep." It happens when inflation pushes people into higher and higher tax brackets while their spending power stays the same or even declines.

Take a family of four with an annual income of \$10,000. Right now, that family is paying about 10 percent in federal income taxes.

But if inflation causes prices to rise at, say, seven percent a year in the coming decade, that family will have to take in some \$20,000 in 1987 just to keep up with the cost of living.

Not only will it not be any better off in terms of what its \$20,000 will buy, it will be much worse off at tax time. For without having added one dollar to its spending power, the family's income tax will be 15 percent, not ten.

A family of four earning \$20,000 a year today — and thus paying 15 percent in income taxes — will be hit even harder. As inflation doubles the cost of living in ten years, the family's income, if it doubles as well, will be taxed at 25 percent.

Poor working people are hit hardest of all. A family that makes \$5,000 this year actually gets \$400 in "earned income credit" from the Internal Revenue Service. In ten years, it will be paying around ten percent, even if its income barely keeps up with the rising cost of living.

Why is this so? Because the tax brackets, expressed in the law by simple dollar amounts, are totally insensitive to inflation. In 1964, when the tax brackets were set, inflation wasn't much of a problem. So no one thought to adjust for it.

Today, taxflation costs taxpayers \$5 billion a year over what they would pay if the system had been inflation-proofed.

Several western nations have taken care of this quirk by simply "indexing" their tax charges to the cost of living, weeding out the effects of inflation. Individual tax brackets, credits and deductions are all adjusted for inflation.

In the US, that would mean the \$20,000 a-year family would continue paying around 15 percent as long as its real buying power stayed the same, the \$10,000-a-year family would keep paying 10 percent and the poor family would get its credit.

Last year, Senator Robert Taft introduced an amendment to the Tax Reform Act of 1976 that would have indexed the federal tax system in this way. But when the amendment came to the Senate floor, the traditional liberal reformers voted it down, knowing it would make future tax hikes — anathema to any politician — inevitable unless spending were cut drastically.

The Republicans, sensing a way to force cuts in the Democratic social spending they have always prophesied would ruin the economy, leaped to the challenge.

Taft himself donned a hardhat to denounce the "crazy system" that from 1972 to 1974 had added \$408 to a typical construction worker's tax bill" and driven steelworkers' taxes up three times faster than their real incomes.

Though "we have heard much talk about 'obscene' and 'windfall' profits in recent years," proclaimed New York's conservative Senator Buckley, "the fact of the matter is that the US government has been raking in windfall profits . . . (from) a cruel, hidden, deceitful tax. Taxation by inflation is tyranny."

Louisiana Democrat Russell Long, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and chief overseer of our tax policy, finally rose and put forth his party's position, revealing just what it is that explains the strange silence of Congress' reform bloc on this issue.

"It is difficult — goodness knows, we have learned in writing this bill how difficult it is — to get senators to vote for tax increases," he said. "Even when we call it reform we cannot get them to vote for it."

"Inflation is the one thing that does tend, somewhat automatically, to help bring the budget into balance."

And with the federal budget doubling, redoubling, and close to redoubling again in the last 15 years, some form of balancing is obviously necessary. Better to slip the money out of voter's pockets through inflation, Long was saying in effect, than to run the risk of rousing their anger with a straight tax increase.

Another liberal staffer adds, "Now I'll grant you this is an issue that's just waiting for some demagogue to pick it up and run with it. But in the meantime we need the revenue, and practically speaking, there's no other way to get it. So the attitude is: let's leave well enough alone."

(MICHAEL NELSON)

ARKANSAS CONSUMER RESEARCH has produced a handbook for tenants that might provide some ideas for people with similar projects in mind. You can get a copy for \$2 including postage from ACR, 1919 W. 7th Street, Little Rock, Ark. 72202.

Planning urban farms

PICTURE THE ANONYMOUS WASTELANDS around American cities transformed into verdant patchworks of small modern farms that supply just-picked fruits and vegetables to city tables.

To most, such a scene seems a nostalgic fantasy. But to architect Eugene Wedell and a growing number of his allies, it's a sensible and necessary goal.

For the past four years Wedell has been working on designs for energy-efficient intensive farms that could yield a living for families, produce wholesome food for nearby cities, and in the process remedy a whole plethora of social ills. He expects to start the first of such farms this year north of San Francisco, with hopes that it will become a model for a movement.

If properly designed, such farms could supply the entire nation's food, according to John Jeavons, a specialist on the French intensive method of cultivation.

Wedell says urban fringe farms must combine three characteristics: techniques that produce high yields; energy efficiency; and marketing arrangements that yield the farmer at least 50 percent of the retail price of his product.

"All of these things are being done somewhere, separately. But nowhere are they all being done together. All that's needed is a model. After that, whatever zoning and other political obstacles arise can be dealt with," he asserts.

The fringe farms, as planned by Wedell, are designed for maximum self-sufficiency through solar and methane energy, recycling and organic growing methods.

Intensive cultivation and greenhouse techniques will be used to prolong the growing season and increase yields. Among them is the French-intensive method pioneered in this country by Alan Chadwick, who uses composting, raised beds and other planting techniques to produce high yields in small spaces. (A variant is known as English market gardening.)

Marketing will be directly to consumers or through the network of food cooperatives.

What the farms are meant to provide people who run them — families or small groups — is a living. Many citizens who now can't find jobs or cannot fit themselves into available employment without anguish, might find such farming satisfying, Wedell believes.

Metropolitan communities would gain not only fresher, cheaper and tastier food, but also greenbelts that offer more than picture window views to those who can buy homes nearby.

The United States is unique in the world in having almost no agriculture around its cities — a uniqueness that looks like a calamity to Wedell. For by some estimates, up to 100 million acres — as much as one-fourth of all US cropland — lie unused within metropolitan sprawl. Cut up into irregular parcels between factories, power plants and housing developments, the wastelands are uneconomical to farm by current methods.



"WONDER WHERE WE COULD GET A FEW IMPORTS!"

flotsam & jetsam

MY DEAR CHAIRPERSON,
I quit.

I don't say that with petulance, in bitterness or even while going under for the third time beneath a wave of indifference. I believe in the cause of our committee, admire your skillful leadership of it and appreciate the need for the active participation of citizens in all matters affecting their well-being.

There are, instead, what they call personal reasons for my departure. For one thing, I am getting a bit worried about my health. Let me cite a few sentences from the report of my last physical, which I intercepted enroute from my doctor to his files:

"Patient appears to be in generally good physical health except for a severe redness of the left ear and bruises on left shoulder apparently due to clamping a telephone receiver between these two points for long hours. This also suggests the cause of the leftward tilt of the head and patient's tendency to play with an imaginary cord in ordinary conversation. A crease line on his back matches the upper contour of the standard folding chair and he reports that the scar tissue above each knee comes from repeatedly attempting to tilt back in same but failing to clear the table in front of him.

"His major complaints, however, appear to be non-physical. Patient reports an inability to carry out the simplest task without an agenda, frequently awakes in the middle of the night screaming "point of order," and believes that most people in the world are out to approve the minutes of the last meeting without giving him a chance to amend them. Several times during my examination of him, he demanded to know if there were a quorum present and when I asked him if he thought it would be wise to consult a psychiatrist, he said he would have to consult 'the task force' and report back to me at our next meeting. He added that it might be an important enough question to hold over for the annual meeting when the general membership would be present. . ."

Now, to tell you the truth, I don't remember having said these things. But my physical took place the morning after our last meeting, which you will recall was highlighted by Joanne B. leading a walkout of the residents of the 3400 block of Willard Street, Richard S. reading his entire thirteen page report on the tree replacement issue into the record, a 1:24 a.m. adjournment, and a man whom none of us knew, dressed in clerical garb save his red tennis shoes, demanding that we cease this silliness and turn to Christ. I had wild dreams that night that somehow revolved around trees growing red canvas crosses, and confess to you, but not to my doctor, that I arose and ate something during the night.

Under the circumstances, I may have said those things. In any case, I have certainly felt them from time to time and the feeling has come with such rapidly increasing frequency that I have come to the conclusion that I best lay off this committee business for awhile.

There was a time when I greeted the morning like Rabbit in Winnie the Pooh:

"It was just the day for Organizing Something, or for Writing a Notice Signed Rabbit, or for Seeing What Everybody Thought About It."

Since you have only known me for a relatively few years, you may have thought this an inherent part of my nature. Not true. My Rabbit days only go back a decade or so. Before that, I was,

according to my mood, Tigger, Pooh, Robin or even the inestimable Eeyore. Never Rabbit.

The closest I came was as Troop Scribe of Troop 188, BSA, but I can assure you, despite what you may have heard about the Boy Scouts, the Rattler Patrol never did anything socially beneficial, and often the contrary.

Even when I became editor of a neighborhood newspaper I steadfastly refused to join any neighborhood organization, arguing that I had to remain objective, whatever that was.

But in the sixties, you will recall, the ghost of Joe Hill arose again, telling us not to mourn but organize. Slowly, like millions of other Americans, I began to let myself belong.

At first I was careful enough. Doing some press work for the local SNCC chapter, going to meetings for the Emergency Recreation Committee for Capital East, helping to organize my neighbors into the Northeast People Progressive Association, one of the dozens of block clubs being established in our area by that new breed of hyperactive adult, the community organizer. I never did fully understand what the community organizers of the anti-poverty program were up to but I was willing to accept the possibility that if we formed enough block clubs we could vote poverty out of office. Besides it was effective, if tedious, way to get grass seed for our sidewalk tree islands.

You can well imagine what happened next. Today it takes an average attendance of 3.27 meetings to quality one for nomination to the board of your typical organization. In those days it took slightly longer but not much.

In fact, on one occasion, I found myself getting a field promotion, leaping from the trenches of the general citizenry onto the board of directors without ever having attended a meeting of the organization.

In a matter of less than two years I had left the warmth of apathy and had become a typical member of that prototypical organization I dreamed up late one night in a brief moment of reflection. I called it Neighbors Energetically Joining Everything Remotely Constructive - or NE-JERC for short.

As casually as a dropped quarter, I had rolled through the grate and into the pit of committedness, there to rest where you found me, tarnished and almost dateless.

I've tried it all ways, I've been the token conservative on radical committees; the token radical on conservative committees; a responsible and quiet hard-working member; a noisy, disruptive one. I've been on committees as autocrat as a shiekdom and ones that have engaged in the purest form of anarchy. I have sat on committees with time limits on their meetings and committees that greeted the dawn. I've been on committees that wouldn't go to the bathroom before discussing the ideological implications involved and committees that would build a bathroom before discussing where the money would come from. I have been on committees that functioned according to the Quaker concept of consensus and those that functioned according to the Frank Rizzo concept of consensus. During one of the early school board races I was even a member of a committee of six people that, like a fraudulent Russian prince, was accepted as an important institution simply because we acted as though we were. The press, never discovering our true nature, quoted us liberally.

Some of these committees were more effective than they deserved, many less than they could have been. But regardless of the degree of militancy, method of organization, or personalities involved, certain immutable principles followed them from meeting to meeting. Among these principles were the following:

- The longer a committee is in exis-

tence the less it does. The best committees are those with "Emergency," "Ad Hoc," "Temporary" or "Crisis" in their title. They are formed out of anger or need, seldom get around to writing by-laws and have a vigor that can only come from the presumption of victory and thus early obsolescence.

- The better organized a committee is the more time it will spend remaining so and the less time it will spend doing what it was established to do.

- The harder one works on a committee, the less others will do and the more you will be asked to do. This is also true of the whole committee, since committees basically serve the function of making the world safe for apathy. Those who advocate town meeting democracy fail to realize that the vast majority of Americans fully understand that without representative government they would have no one to do it for them, a totally untenable situation.

- The primary source of committee members is other committees. Therefore, if you wish to stay off committees, stay off the first one.

- The more people on a committee have in common the more time they will spend arguing about it. If you are careful to add one obstructionist to your committee, it will unite all the others. They will quickly move the agenda and you'll be home for the eleven o'clock news.

- For shorter meetings either serve no liquids or serve coffee and beer and clog the toilet.

- The minute anyone suggests that the committee do something, appoint that person to head a subcommittee on the matter. Most will plead sickness in the family but a few will actually take up the cause.

- When it comes to that point in the meeting to look for volunteers, volunteer early for some totally trivial or enjoyable task. Stand right up and say, "I'll be glad to call the weather bureau to see what the long range forecast is for our rally," and that will leave everyone else with the job of finding speakers, setting up loudspeakers, calling the press and coralling an appropriately angry crowd.

- Never serve as a token member of any committee unless you can occasionally field a majority. Otherwise the committee will continue to do wrong and won't even feel guilty about it.

- The following are acceptable excuses for not going to a meeting:

My mother died (even chairpeople have mothers)

I have to go to another meeting where a very close vote is expected, but will try to come later (chairpeople always have schedule conflicts.)

I have to stay late at the office (even chairpeople have jobs.)

- The following are not valid excuses for not going to a meeting:

I want to see the 14th chapter of "The Pallisers" (demonstrates questionable social values).

I don't have a babysitter (demonstrates sloth).

My wife and I had a fight over all the meetings I go to so I think I'll stay home (demonstrates putting the nuclear family above the general welfare of the community).

My car won't start (someone will pick you up and then leave early without telling you).

I don't feel good (with all the grave problems we face in our society you're not supposed to feel good).

- Finally, there is a minority within the minority of committedness made up of people who belong to committees not to croak in a public bog, nor to take out hostilities, nor to get themselves nominated, but because they believe that the only way crummy things can be made better is for people to get together and do something about it. They work hard, make even the most contentious committee function, and are the reason committees do

worthwhile things from time to time. In the old days we called them saints; today they are more often called corresponding secretaries.

But even with these principles firmly in the mind, it is the rare person who can survive, as I have, ten years on the committee circuit. We committee members are like flight controllers, over the hill five years after we first apply for the job. As the fellow said, the mind can only absorb what the seat can endure. I find myself squirming more and absorbing less. Before I went on vacation I promised to write a letter to a key city official reflecting the views of our neighborhood commission on a crucial matter. Two weeks later the letter was unwritten and try as I might I could

not recall our position. It was, as my eight year old would say, a clue.

So I'm going to take a break. I have already resigned from several committees. I retire from the neighborhood commission at the end of this year and as assistant den leader of Den One, Pack 595 as soon as I can. I shall refuse all offers to become the indentured servant of any political candidates by serving on their campaign committees or promising "to help out in precinct 27". I will decline all nominations and refuse all elections.

Please do not consider me irresponsible or indifferent. I just would like to lay the ghost of Joe Hill to rest for a while to explore what I trust is a vast field between hyperactivity and civic catatonia. I will stuff your envelopes if I have time and I will work the polls on election day for any friend or other-

wise worthy candidate. I will even come to some of your meetings. But do not presume from these acts that I am back on your phone list.

Besides, there are others. In my neighborhood alone I estimate there are 1500 able citizens who have not yet served on any committee and more who have never served on yours. A list of registered voters is attached so you won't feel I am deserting you completely.

I may come back out of anger or boredom or because somebody grabs me at a weak moment and says, "It really won't take much time." But don't count on it. For the interim, just consider me tabled until time uncertain.

Hearing no further business, I rule myself out of order and move to adjourn.

— SAM SMITH

P.S.

AN Oregon resident - who believes that millions of acres of land could be saved if we buried people standing up rather than lying down - has applied for a special patent in England.
Alfred Schmitz concedes in his patent application that "if the conventional casket is tipped upright the body would slump to the foot end."
Schmitz's application includes detailed drawings of plastic supports that would be fitted below the arms and legs, causing the body to remain standing.



ACCORDING TO THE WASHINGTON POST, the newspaper industry is the country's third largest employer, running behind automobiles and steel.

IF you get depressed after downing a few gin and tonics, you've now got an excuse.
Science News reports that medical experts have discovered a connection between that popular summertime drink and depressed mental states.

The researchers are reported to have found that the sugar in the tonic reacts with the gin to give drinkers a "sugar high" for about one hour after they start drinking. About 60 minutes later, however, what is described as a "grief reaction" sets in, setting off a bout of mental depression. To avoid all this, says Science News, simply use artificially sweetened tonic water with your gin, rather than a mix containing sugar.



JUST HEARD ABOUT THE TERRIBLE crime wave in ANC 3B. Goods stolen include one elk head, one moose head and seven statues of cowboys and Indians. . .HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE Anacostia Museum. It's ten years old. . .ALTHOUGH QUESTIONS ABOUT ANC funding undoubtedly discouraged some people from running for the neighborhood commissions, another reason no one filed in 115 districts is because of the short two-week petition period, which bracketed Labor Day and back-to-school week. While it may not take two weeks to get the required 25 signatures, it can take that long for the word to get around a district that no one has filed, so a candidate can be sought.

A FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION administrative law judge has said that Perpetual Federal violated federal anti-trust laws by having seven directors sitting on the boards of three DC banks (American Security, National Bank of Washington and Union First). The FTC was considering last month whether to uphold the decision.

THE BOARD of Directors of the Washington Area Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse has unanimously voted support for the decriminalization of marijuana. . .THE CAPITOL HILL RESTORATION SOCIETY now has 1500 members. . .HOUSING PRICES in Mt. Pleasant may be going up, but library circulation is going down. Before the Second World War, the Mt. Pleasant Library loaned out 350,000 books a year. By 1967, it was down to 120,000 and now it's 40,000.

A GROUP OF INFLUENTIAL Dupont Circle landholders thought they would get together a Dupont Circle Property Owners Association, to protect their interests against some of the more progressive groups in the neighborhood. Only problem was they weren't too careful to whom they sent meeting invitations. A sizable number of Dupont Circle activists showed up at the meeting, listened quietly as they were berated, and then voted their own slate into office.

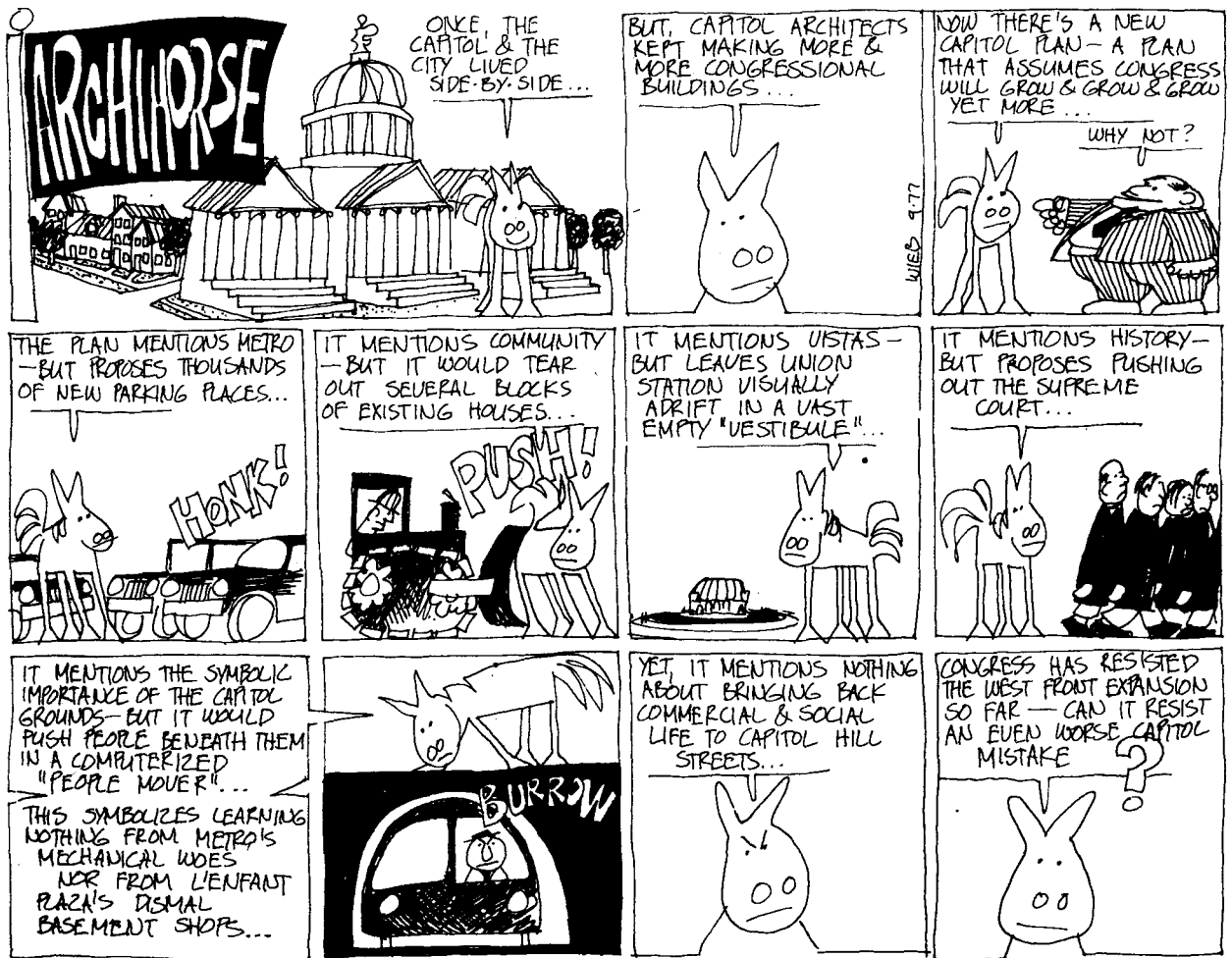
TO BECOME an official guide, you have to go down to city hall and take a test. Well, someone of considerable familiarity with the city and its history took the test recently and tells us that out of a hundred questions he was asked only one was on black Washington and none on Anacostia, residential DC, the Old Post Office or Rock Creek Park. Lest you think there wasn't enough room to ask questions about the city on a test for prospective city guides, here are some of the questions that were asked:

- Where is the statue of Joan of Arc?
- What material is used for the exterior of the Lincoln Memorial?
- What plantation did George Washington visit 15 times as president?
- Who was the philanthropist of the Pan American Union?
- What group of statuary on the east end of the Mall contains 22 different animals?

• What president laid the cornerstone at the Department of Interior?

The first replacement question that comes to mind is: How well do Walter Washington and city council economic development committee chair Wilhelmina Rolark know what's going on in the guide permit office?

SCIENCE DIGEST did a study of American cities and states, examining degree of air pollution, average life span of residents, the quality of local medical



care and the incidence of fatal auto accidents and killer diseases. One of the most unhealthy places to live, it turned out, was Washington DC (along with New Jersey, Rhode Island, the Ohio River Valley.) DC residents, it reported, had shorter life spans than other Americans.

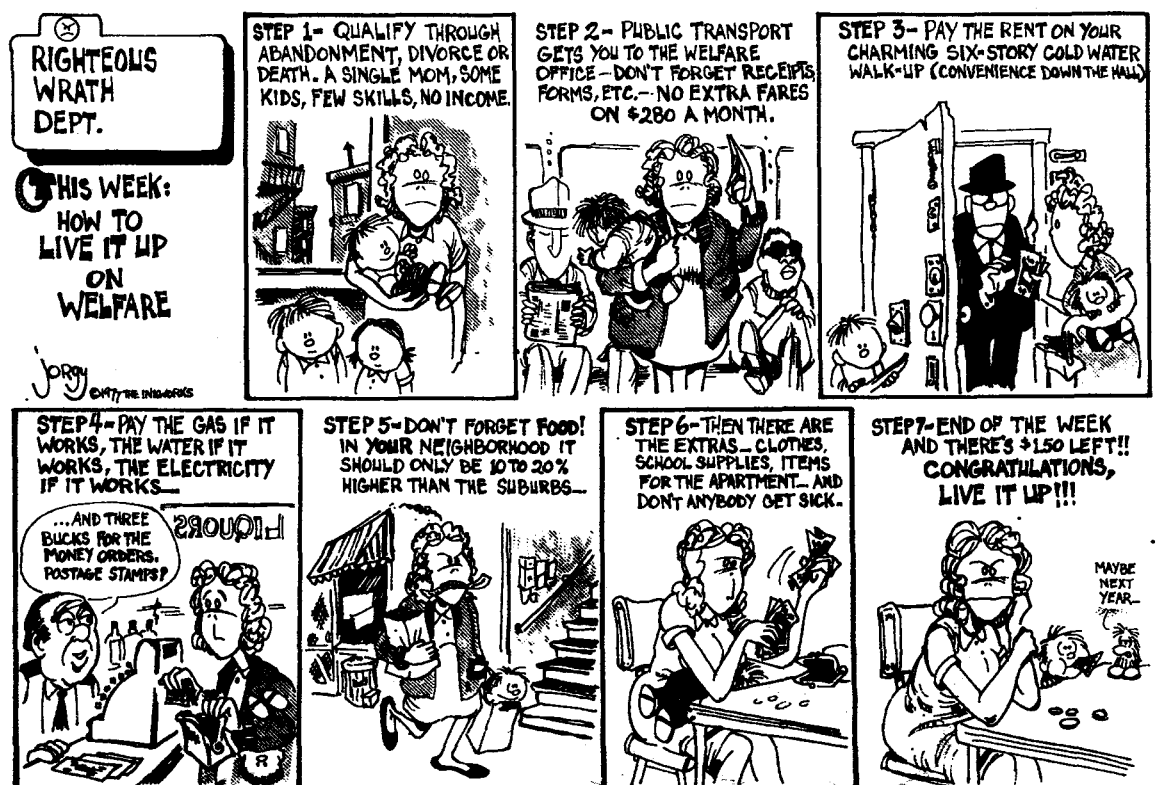
CAPITOL HILLERS are upset about the brown brick being used on parks along Penna. Ave. Metro route. Seems no one thought to tell Metro or the National Park Service that they wanted red brick. Why the brown was chosen is not quite clear, although it seems to fit the Metro pattern as it costs twice as much as red brick.

BYE-BYE TO JOHN WOODBRIDGE, one of the godfathers of the grandiose welfare program for developers known as the Pennsylvania Avenue Plan. 'Ol John leaves us with a confession as he moves to another professional pasture. Speaking of the original design for Pa. Ave., with its destruction of the Willard, the Old Post Office and other buildings and the god-awful "ational Square, Woodbridge says: "I take the blame for it. It wasn't rational. What happened was we had a group of famous architects for the council. The

staff would put up things for them to knock down. I would try to build from the small areas of agreement. The National Square was the last piece, all their little axes pounded into one.

"One day, we sketched it quickly and put it up on the wall," Woodbridge told the Post. "I woke up the next morning, worrying, 'What have we done?' That was the way we worked in the '60s, planning was all done by the 'Big Idea,' without much thought about who would have to be relocated or what the impact would be on people's lives. I thank God now, that it never came to pass. But I remember thinking then, 'Don't worry it won't ever get built.'"

Of course, this admission would have come in a bit more handy if it had been made early enough in the game to have hired other planners who wouldn't make such stupid mistakes. But what they call "the planning process" doesn't work that way. People like Woodbridge and avenue planner Nathaniel Owings get the jobs, no matter how bad their plans, while other architects, planners and ordinary citizens have to work as unpaid consultants struggling to prevent the worst of the plans from going through. Just about everything good about the avenue plan - the elimination of the Square, the preservation of the old buildings, was achieved for free - the result of citizen pressure upon reluctant paid "planners."



THE FORGOTTEN TOURIST

Clemson Smith

THERE are 90 major monuments and memorials inside DC, 32,000 acres of National Capital Parks land and numerous shrines. But for all of Washington's attractions, its tourist industry is not being properly exploited. There is no travel bureau to help visitors and promote tourism. Any publicity is done for the individual promoters' self-interests. And tourist services and information are uneven; not enough to give the city a bad image, but enough to wonder how much more could be done to increase the industry.

One fourth of the nation's population lives within 300 miles of DC. Washington is located on one of the nation's major tourist routes, running northward to Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, and Boston, and southward to the semi-tropical resorts. Highway patterns lead tourists into or near DC, and a stop into the city is convenient for a great number of annual travelers on the coastal route. The article that follows deals with how DC treats its tourists and why it doesn't look for more:

IN 1972 Virginia had an estimated 28 million tourists, making it sixth in the nation. Its Travel Service had an operating budget of \$1.5 million, a staff of 54, offices in Richmond, New York City, Washington, DC, and eight highway information stations near interstate highway entrances to Virginia. In contrast, Washington, the nation's capital with a population of over 700,000, attracted an estimated 17 to 18 million tourists, making it the city's largest industry after the federal government.

But DC has no travel office anywhere and no funds are appropriated for tourist promotion, except to the Washington Convention and Visitor Association.

"Our only current effort in the direction of tourism is what the WCVA does," pointed out Herman Neugass, special assistant to the Director of Economic Development, when asked about the city government's involvement with the tourist industry. "Our present commitment is to be supportive of the WCVA's policies."

Those policies, which include tourism development, publicity and industry services and, most conspicuously, convention sales, are supported by a budget of over \$600,000 annually. \$400,000 is given by DC's private institutions and the rest comes from the city government. How the public funds are used for tourism development is not clear. "I would like to know myself," commented Wilhelmina Rolark, chairperson of the City Council's Committee of Employment and Economic Development.

"It is all put into a common pot without a definite use of anybody's money," explained WCVA executive vice-president Austin Kenny. "To give some comparison of the amount of public and private funding, we are second nationally in private support but twenty-third in government funding.

The businessmen support us very well."

But so does the city government. The budget office explained the city guarantees \$200,000 and matches any amount over \$290,000 raised privately, which in 1976 equaled \$52,000. By a city council resolution, the DC Chamber of Commerce is responsible for the extra amount (they are funded by the city council). And no itemized records are kept. "They (WCVA) are budgeted to pay for staff costs and general services," said budget analyst David Leonard. "We do not budget to them by specific categories. We do not have a detailed itemized list, though it could be requested."

Neugass believes the creation of the Office of Business and Economic Develop-

ment will improve the situation. "There is strong recognition of the need. It is not a void," he said. "When the OBED is established, I think you will see a strong accent on the regular tourist, not the convention type." Even the creation of a tourism office similar to those of other major cities is possible. "I think our OBED will follow that pattern," Neugass continued. "I think we can capitalize on tourism much more than we do now."

Kenny acknowledges the city council's interest, but claims the lack of money forces the WCVA to concentrate on conventioners. "I think there is an awareness of the industry in the city council," he stated. "It is our own responsibility to develop and hand out information; there is no question about providing information and services, but you need money. That is where the problem is. You cannot do everything. It is an impossibility. You just try to provide basic services."

"There should be an office of tourism and it should be the Board of Trade," commented Metro Director of Community Services Cody Phanstiehl. (The WCVA has been separated from the Board of Trade since late 1976.) "Everyone who profits from tourism does either a lot or nothing to promote it."

Most large businesses who profit from it are members of the Board of Trade and the WCVA. The WCVA concentrates mostly on conventioners. (A 1974 Gladstone Associates, study on tourism prepared for the WCVA estimated 45 percent of DC visitors arrive for conventions and business, double the national average.) The 635,000 to 650,000 conventioners who annually visit DC contribute an estimated \$750 million to the metropolitan area's economy, add \$30 to \$35 million in city taxes, and create approximately 40,000 tourist-related jobs. Updating figures from the Gladstone report, Kenny stated an individual conventioner spends an average of \$67 daily or \$300 per trip (not including air fare) while staying 4.4 nights. And 80 percent of the expenses goes towards hotels and restaurants.

In contrast, a regular tourist was estimated to spend \$33 (1974 figures) daily while staying just an average of 2.7 nights, (although the US Travel Data Services estimates the average for all visitors was 4.4 nights). Only about 70 percent of the expenses went for lodging and food. (The study distinguishes the one day visitor from overnight visitor as one who does not spend much money.) Most conventioners have expense accounts; most tourists do not. "Remember tourism is done with disposable income, what remains after you pay the bills, mortgage, car," said Kenny in explaining problems the WCVA has in reaching the typical tourist. "Travel agents have a difficult time selling travel packages to DC. It has a high markup and a small staying time (two or three nights). Most tourists to DC come from within small travel distances (500 miles). Therefore, we will spend a lot with West Coast agencies in promoting DC tours."

The WCVA could spend more time helping and informing the potential tourist within traveling distances from Washington. Easily accessible by train, car, bus and air, the DC tourist market stretches north to Boston, south past the Carolinas, and west to Ohio and Kentucky. Though they publish a Visitor Information Guide and other brochures (which list only members of the WCVA unless it is the Smithsonian or a similar prestigious organization impossible to ignore), the WCVA serves those who created them — the business community. They essentially are promoters of "how good Washington is" for those who do not have to come here.

The WCVA strongly favors a \$110 million convention center. A less expensive and certainly more necessary project would be the creation of a tourism office for DC. Cities like New York, Orlando, and Philadelphia have one. The first two, along with many states, even maintain a branch in DC. But Kenny and local Hotel Association executive vice-president Leonard Hickman disapprove the idea for various reasons. Both claim there is the lack of funds and that it is unfair to compare DC with a state in terms of tourist promotion.

"The other state tourism offices maintain a branch in DC," said Kenny. "We have ours here anyway." Hickman thought Washington's appeal as the nation's capital was enough to attract tourists. "It is a question of money. We are not a state which can support its own tourist office," he stated. "I think people will visit DC anyhow because it is the center of government."

Hickman's statement epitomizes an attitude prevalent among most of DC's political and business leaders. "There is the national appeal," pointed out Phanstiehl. "If you did not raise a finger they would still come."

Bill Cunningham of Soul Journey Tours commented: "There is that attitude, 'You really do not need that.' True, people will come to the nation's capital no matter what. But the city does not have any other business; it must hold on to what it has. It must not rely on people coming to DC because it is the nation's capital. You get this attitude expressed over and over again." Cunningham also saw no reason why DC could not have a travel bureau. "Kenny's argument is full of holes," he continued. "Los Angeles, Las Vegas, and other cities have bureaus here."

Though this disposition does not help DC's tourism, it has not hurt it either. A 1972 National Travel Expenditure Study by the US Travel Data Center listed DC third among states (behind Nevada and Alaska) in average daily visitor expenditures, ahead of Hawaii and New York. And the average length of stay in DC hotels is the longest in the nation.

Still, there is no reason why a travel office could not improve the tourism industry and facilitate traveling to DC. For its small budget, the Virginia State Travel Service generated \$1,626,000 in tourist revenues for 1976. "I think it has really paid off, opening offices in DC and New York City," commented VSTS Washington branch director Joanne Potts. "We are here to generate business from out of the state into Virginia. Our purpose is to get people into the state. We help people plan vacations, help route them, make hotel reservations, suggest locations or campgrounds."

The VSTS also handles conventions and large tours, but it is the personalized service they give the individual traveler which makes them so successful. It would not hurt for DC's second largest industry to follow the example.

Black tourism

FOR a city with a black majority, little importance is given to black tourism. "There are plenty of black sites," complained Bill Cunningham of Soul Journey Tours, an organization which mostly handles black tours. "But aside from Soul Journey, there is little publicity. We are concerned and involved with raising the consciousness and interest of visitors and residents of the black sites, but we are not a very good publicity mechanism because we are a commercial enterprise involved in organized tours and

groups. That is our biggest concern: that there is another aspect of the city and that enough is not being done."

Many black businessmen are established downtown, but it seems the tourist industry is not that big a bonanza. Even if they are members of the WCVA. "I really cannot identify we have done any more business as members than when we were not," said one black businessman. "But they do give you contacts throughout the business community." Cunningham thinks even if the proposed convention center is built, the situation will not change for the black businessman. "It should, but it will not affect them directly," he said. "No one is coming up to this area to spend money."

Tourist problems

IN June, the Washington Post briefly interviewed seven tourists on their likes and dislikes of DC. The most common complaint was the parking shortage, something city residents also suffer. The Department of Transportation parking division is aware of the situation, but there is little they can do to help Washingtonians, let alone tourists. Assistant chief Fred Caponiti points out that there are five free fringe lots available for parking — RFK/Stadium Armory, Carter Barron, Soldier's Home (Catholic University), South Capitol Street, Columbia Island. But none are near downtown, therefore any driver is forced to learn the bus routes.

And Metro's spaghetti-like network is a problem for anybody. "We recognize it is difficult for tourists to use the bus system," admitted Caponiti. "What we hope is that more people use the subway system." To help tourists (and natives), Metro's Director of Community Services Cody Phanstiehl pointed out a phone number which handles between 4-6,000 calls daily. "In addition, we have thousands of leaflets," he said. "But it is up to the Board of Trade and those other organizations to distribute them."

The same subway system expected to be the panacea to many of DC's ills might not solve the parking shortage, but Metro thinks it still could be a boon for the tourist industry. "The existence of a rapid rail system has been a heck of a tourist attraction. It has received worldwide publicity," stated Phanstiehl. "Evidence of that is the tour buses are now stopping in front of the Dupont Circle, passengers are discharging, riding down the escalator (the world's third longest), riding right back up, and leaving. It is becoming an attraction like any other."

Phanstiehl thinks that beside the convenience it offers, Metro will also be an incentive to come to DC. "You have to see how the tourist from St. Louis will go back home and say one has to come to Washington to ride the escalator," he explained. "And do not forget Union Station and National Airport are connected by Metro; it is a convenience to both the tourist and hosts." One convenience not offered to visitors, though, are bus tokens. Though 260 banks in DC sell them, no hotel does.

The Weber family from Indiana confirmed Phanstiehl's theory. "We are staying with friends in Fairfax. We drive to National Airport and take the Metro," said Mr. Weber one July afternoon when they were returning from downtown. "It is convenient for us; it beats the hell out of parking downtown. Metro is practical; we will recommend it."

Far fewer would recommend a trip to DC eight years ago. Washington had one of the highest crime rates in the US. Since then, DC has dropped to seventeenth. And its crime image has seemingly disappeared. Only one of the seven Post interviewees mentioned crime as a fear.

"I do not perceive a crime image for DC," mentioned WCVA executive vice-president Austin Kenny. "You have to recognize the great job done by the Metropolitan and Park police. We had 22 straight

months of reduced crime. Plus the public has grown aware that their communities have had greater problems than DC."

The Metro, Park, and Capitol police all deal with tourists to a large extent but none report any specific inconveniences. "There is very little tourist-related crime. Most police-related incidents are car accidents on the parkway, city residents incidents, and then some tourist-related crime," pointed out National Park Service spokeswoman Mary Krug. "I do not recall any tourist being mugged in at least a year. The area patrolled by the Park police is 'very safe.'"

Still, whether it is in the 14th Street corridor, in front of the Washington Monument, or a breakin at the Ambassador Hotel, tourists are prime crime targets. "Surely there is crime; there has to be when you start dealing with the high number of tourists that we do," commented Park police spokesman Lt. Tom Linsion. "Larceny is our biggest problem. Tourists come with all their credit cards, they are not familiar with the area and are lost."

Metro police information officer Sargeant Charles Collins affirmed larceny was the biggest tourist-related crime but also outlined why it had been kept at a minimum. "We have gone to hotels, and along with the management, we have informed the tourist on how to protect themselves ('do not keep valuables in view')," explained Collins. "That was the thrust, dealing directly with the businessmen, the community, and the hotels. The key is to know what to do to avoid becoming a victim of crime."

"We circulated crime prevention kiosks around the city and made sure maps were available," he continued. "We found we got a lot of exposure. The business community was very cooperative. They want to change the image of DC from the crime capital to the people's capital."

But others are not so sure the lawless image has disappeared completely. "The image has not gone. It is still a problem," charged Bill Cunningham of Soul Journey Tours. "I have heard people and travel agents are still turned off by DC as a destination because of its crime image." Especially abroad, where many Americans still get asked if it is true muggers and rapists hide in every dark alley of a big city. "I am not sure DC was ever that lawless," pointed out Cunningham. "But DC got this notoriety and it has not disappeared. And anyone who says it has disappeared has to be out of their 'gourd'."

Foreign visitors

"WE are an international city," said International Visitor Service Council director Nancy McCloskey in a 1975 Post interview. "But we do not act like one. We only have five pamphlets about Washington in other languages. . . and you cannot find a tour in a second language." Two years later, there are still pamphlets in only five languages — Spanish, French, German, Italian, and Japanese — and no tours in a second language. That is for a city which was used as a port of entry by 56,239 foreigners in 1976, and which welcomes many more in passing.

If it were not for the International Visitor Information Service, which maintains a language bank in 47 languages, Washington would be a sorry excuse for an international city. "Until last year, DC did not have any multi-lingual services," commented IVIS staff member Wally Mertes. "People come and say they have been to South America, Africa, and Europe, but there is nothing like the lack of services in DC."

IVIS is a private, non-profit organization staffed by a thousand resident volunteers (about 700 are at least bilingual) who provide free hospitality, sightseeing escorts, and community services to foreign tourists. And though there are several touring agencies in DC with multi-lingual personnel, IVIS is the most responsive organization geared toward international visitors. "I feel very for-

tunate that IVIS is in DC," said Austin Kenny. "I am most anxious to work with anybody who deals with foreign tourists."

IVIS, funded by the Meridian House Foundation, has been more concerned than the WCVA. They maintain information booths at Dulles Airport and the National Visitor Center, and help in producing literature. "We do not publish any brochures ourselves," said Mertes. "We do some translations; we have worked with the US Travel Service (but never with the city government), help them with brochures." And IVIS's language bank is a 24-hour service used frequently by the police and local businessmen.

"It is taken for granted that people will come to Washington," said staff member Ann Coulter while pointing out problems foreigners face in DC. "Tourists (with foreign currency) are at the mercy of hotels who are willing to exchange. A tourist is in big trouble if they need 40 cents for the bus and are out of cash."

Before the Riggs Bank established in 1975 a 24-hour phone service which guarantees specific exchange rates to hotels and other commercial establishments, the only currency exchange locations were at Dulles Airport (9am to 2pm weekdays only), Deke and Company (9am to 5pm weekdays and 9 am to 1 pm Saturdays) and Mutual of Omaha which has a small exchange in the National Airport.

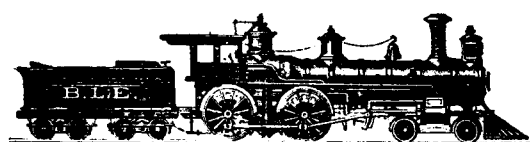
"That was a problem because the rates changed daily," admitted Hotel Association executive vice-president Leonard Hickman. "Generally, hotels try to get tourists to go to the bank. But they do not guarantee rates. It is the biggest problem we have. But only if a hotel was trying to specialize in foreign tourists, it would make sense to deal with foreign exchange."

There is also a need for multi-lingual hotel employees. A March 1975 Washington Star editorial stated over 100,000 international visitors come to DC annually and criticized the lack of services for them. The Sheraton Park Hotel was singled out as an exception. But two other major hotels just offered a roster of personnel who are multi-lingual and can be called upon providing they are on duty. And only two others had menus printed in foreign languages.

Hickman thought the editorial was unsubstantial. "25 DC hotels listed in the American Hotel Association book have foreign language clerks," he pointed out. "I know we hire a number of foreign employees." Does Hickman mean foreign citizens or ethnic minorities? "You know why they are listed in the Hotel Association Book with foreign speaking clerks," charged Washington Whirl-Around president Harriet Schwartz, who is also on the WCVA board of directors. "Because most of them have waiters who are Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other nationality. Hotels do not go out of their way for servicing foreign tourists."

The only servicing the city council is planning for foreign tourists is Arrington Dixon's proposed bill for international traffic signs. And the US Travel Service is planning to reopen a port reception program at Dulles. "We also encourage hotels to have multi-lingual clerks and airports to put international and multi-lingual signs," said staff member Don Wynecar. They could try a little harder.

But unless foreign tourists increase dramatically in the future, it will be hard to find any tours in a second language. "We do not; nobody does it in the US," said Grey Line Tours administrative assistant Tess Poston. "But we will do specific groups and organizations. It is not feasible, we do not get that many foreign tourists from any country on one single day to justify sending out a 53-passenger bus."



letters, comment & alarms

DC: the value of hanging on

I HAVE been trying to think of something poignant and moving to write about leaving town, something like that piece you wrote about Eddie Leonards.

After a month's careful consideration, I find that there is nothing to say. I can't write a diatribe against Washington's isolation from the rest of the country because its isolation is a myth. People who work on the Hill may think they're isolated but that doesn't speak for the rest of us.

Washington isn't tinseltown on the Potomac, it's as real as Bridgeport. Once you learn to ignore all the superficial puff that has been written about the place, you find that it's a pretty good place to live.

The main thing Washington has going for it is that it's not New York. In fact, Georgetown, my own neighborhood, despite all the efforts of the developers to turn it into a sort of miniature upper East Side, still has more in common with the little town in Massachusetts where my mother grew up than it does with a really big city.

On electiondays, the same people appear, hand out sample ballots, and gossip about their grandchildren, real estate and taxes. They observe the old conventions. "That was Miss Lucy. Her father owned the house across from the church. There were four daughters, and she was the only one who never married," as an old lady in a straw hat mounts the stairs.

These people have seen a lot and they're not impressed. Henry Kissinger may fly all over the world but his dogs runs into other people's garages and upsets the garbage pails. The workings of the government are observed with a practiced eye, like a jeweler admiring the innards of a Swiss watch.

To live in Washington is to know how slow change really is, a valuable lesson, best learned early in life. One realizes that Armageddon does not come every four years, and that the forces of change ballyhooed by the press will sell out just like everyone else. Reduced expectations are the name of the game in American politics. It is far preferable to know that all politicians are schmucks than to put one's faith in the man on the white horse.

Cynicism doesn't seem to breed despair, however. Ex-revolutionaries get jobs in the city government. They've signed on for the long haul. The average Washingtonian has an enormous amount of staying power, having survived the New Deal, Camelot, the Southwest Freeway, the riots and the Three Sisters Bridge.

Washington has sort of a streetwise air of down home funk to it, which I suspect has to do with being a black city in a hot climate. It's too hard to be uptight when you're sweating your brains out. We're all survivors together in a municipal steam bath.

We've got a city that is manageable for everyday living. It needs a lot of things, supermarkets, housing, an efficient city government, and God knows it must have the worst climate in the Western Hemisphere, but even with all that, it's a nice place to live. Ride your bicycle through the streets on a summer night. Feel the cool air rushing up at you as you ride over Rock Creek Park. It smells good too. There's sort of a seductive early summer fragrance made up of flowers, asphalt, and greasy carryouts. The good earth combined with the primal hamburger. You can't beat it.

In May every parking lot sprouts roses, and at dusk the view from East Potomac Park looking toward Virginia is one of the most beautiful river scenes in the world. Monet's views of London Bridge don't touch it.

Right now I'm in New York, where you can see three mimes in one day in 20 blocks, where the news anchorman looks like James Bond, and everyone is either gay, rich, Jewish, divorced or Puerto Rican. It's going to be an interesting winter. Will New York finally go bankrupt? Will the citizens of New York celebrate the reinstatement of the death penalty by lynching Abe Beame?

Although municipal crises make good stories, they get old real fast when they impede the lifestyle to which you have become accustomed. Which is why I hope that circumstances will permit my early return to the District of Columbia. However, if they don't, the city of Washington shall remain forever in my debt as the place that taught me how much trust to place in a politician, and the value of hanging on.

— ANNE CHASE

ANNE CHASE has been associate editor of the Gazette, specializing in coverage of DC public education.

School board candidate writes

THE DC School Board, through neglect, has made our school system highly vulnerable to law suits for "educational malpractice" by parents. Suits like one for \$5 million being brought on behalf of Edward Donohue. Young Donohue, at 19, is a middle-class New Yorker who was pushed out of high school with a diploma he can't comprehend. The boy can't read beyond a fourth grade level.

Donohue is a waste product of the public school.

Suits for malpractice against doctors and lawyers have long been common in the courts. The notion, however, of holding our school board members legally accountable when our children don't learn is a new concept in the law, fast gaining credibility.

"Educational malpractice" is variously defined as inaction, incompetence or bad faith on the part of school board members elected to effectively manage our public schools and set priorities that produce learning.

The idea central to a malpractice concept is that our public school must measure up to the potential of our children.

If a diploma from high school in DC is ever again to represent

solid achievement at the 12th grade level — and not just a ticket to limbo — it is vital that those on the board who shirk accountability be identified as part of the problem, and ousted from office.

What all parents are coming to realize is that learning poverty is a disease in our public schools, striking equally at both "advantaged" and "disadvantaged" children.

The National Center for Education Statistics estimates that 346,000 — a full 11 percent — of June 1977 high school graduates are functionally illiterate. The George Washington University Institute for Educational Leadership broadens this statistic claiming that there are today at least 7 million functionally illiterate school children on all levels in our public schools.

Learning poverty in public school begins in the early grades, but becomes critical in junior high, high school and beyond.

A recent US Office of Education study estimates 22 per cent of Americans over 17 are illiterate and another 32 per cent are only marginally literate. Researchers from the University of Indiana School of Education have written in *Getting People to Read* that 43 per cent of our elementary school children are in "critical need" of reading help, while at least 2.7 million high school students today can't keep up with classmates because of reading difficulties. Of the last group of lost souls, a full one half are estimated to never get the remedial help they need.

Clearly, it is not only "disadvantaged" kids that are getting skimpy educations.

The respected Council for Basic Education cites a report from the National Assessment of Educational Progress that "public schools are failing miserably, scandalously, outrageously, at least 20 per cent of youth:

The National Assessment, in its comprehensive study, concludes:

- after 1012 years of public schooling, these children are unable to read in any meaningful sense; the

- they are unable to write beyond a primitive, inaccurate and sometimes incoherent level; and

- they are unable to compute almost anything.

In his recent book, *Does Anybody Give a Damn?* Nat Hentoff considers public schooling in "a state of acute malnutrition."

As Hentoff observes, kids are invisible and so who really cares if they learn? It's just not the same as the public getting shoddy police, fire or garbage services. If these city services are improperly delivered, people get upset.

Dooming thousands of kids, however, to impoverished adulthood because of their impoverished public schooling is something we've quite strangely come to tolerate.

It is certainly the shame of this nation when School Board members are allowed to set policy and standards that fail our children.

Although blame for learning poverty in our public schools is collectively shared by parents, teachers and school administrators, ultimate accountability must rest with the School Board, our elected decision makers.

Harvey Scribner, former Chancellor of the New York City public school system in his book *Make Your Schools Work*, states ". . . the day will come, when parents will tell professionals they employ — This is what we want for our children — Don't tell us the reasons it can't be done."

I believe that day has arrived.

The buck for why our children aren't learning must stop at the top, with the elected school board, the producers of education in our public schools.

The theme "producers must be accountable" as the controllers of educational quality in our system was stated forcefully before the US Senate, in testimony presented to the Subcommittee on Juvenile Delinquency.

After observing that a full 23 percent of all children are failing to graduate from public school, James A. Harris, former president of the National Education Association, concludes: "If 23 percent of the automobiles did not run, if 23 percent of the buildings fell down, if 23 percent of the stuffed ham spoiled — we'd look at the producer."

— KEN LANGE

KEN LANGE is an attorney running for the Ward III schoolboard seat. He is also a former newspaper reporter and education writer covering big city public schools for Scripps-Howard newspapers. He presently directs advocacy efforts for the Washington Area Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse.

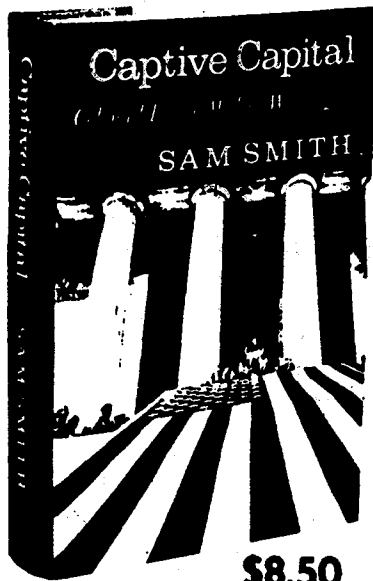
Charter amendments

THIS November 8, District voters can go to the polls to vote themselves some new rights. Called initiative, referendum and recall, these rights will enable citizens to propose laws and enact them directly by public vote, repeal laws of the city council by public vote, and remove elected city officials from office by public vote before the end of his or her term. To can an Initiative and Referendum election requires a petition containing 5% of the city's registered voters. Recall requires 10% of the registered voters.

Citizens must vote "YES" on charter amendments 1 and 2 in order to approve all three petition rights. The city council has already unanimously endorsed the amendments at a meeting last May. If voters approve them in November, however, the congress must still ratify them within 30 working days.

Initiative DC needs volunteers to help distribute literature, endorsements and help from civic groups, and contributions. Write Initiative DC, 1411 K Street, NW, Suite 850, DC 20005. Or call Lynne Zamil at 638-2545.

— INITIATIVE DC



\$8.50

Captive Capital

*Colonial Life
in Modern Washington*

Here's what people have been saying about Gazette editor Sam Smith's book about local Washington:

Could be an excellent gift for any friend just moving to town. Or any friend who has managed to live here for sometime without learning anything about Washington. . . . Sam Smith's is one of the few efforts I have seen that manages to deal with black people and white people without insulting either." — WILLIAM RASPBERRY, WASHINGTON POST

It is absolutely 'must' reading for all who are interested in this city's history, its political or private life — JAMES TINNEY, WASHINGTON AFRO-AMERICAN

Smith's book is a joy to read — ROBERT CASSIDY, CHICAGO TRIBUNE

METROPOLITAN AREA TENNIS AND GOLF GUIDE, 1977 EDITION

Ellen Lux, editor

Whether you are a die-hard sports fan or you need to exercise to take off excess tonage, the 1977 MATGG has all you need to know on activities and facilities. In addition to golf and tennis, there is also info on racquetball, ice skating, bicycling, basketball, etc. There are also feature articles on the Bullets, Caps, Redskins, Forest Hills, the Masters Tournament, and much more.

141 pages, 6 x 9, \$2.00 perfectb'nd

CAPITAL FEASTS: The Menu Guide to Washington Area Restaurants

Janet Staihar and Richard Barnes

1977 guide to the menus of the top restaurants in the area. With notes on open hours, decor, house specials and other features.

128 pages, 8 x 8 1/2, \$4.50 perfectb'nd

COUNTRY INNS, by Lewis Perdue.

More than 70 rustic spots in nearby Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia are evaluated for food, ambience, lodging availability, and service. Includes historic background along with details on where to call and how to get there. 192 pages, \$4.95.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL GUIDE. Over 200 independent schools in the area described; including tuition information, curriculum, requirements. \$3.95

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TOUCHING DC: A fine photo-to book about Washington for children. \$4.20

WASHINGTON STAR GARDEN BOOK. A long time local classic. Lots of information keyed to local conditions. \$3.95

SUCCESSFUL GARDENING IN THE GREATER WASHINGTON AREA. We're not into gardening but we're told that this book is an excellent companion book to the Star guide. Prepared by the Men's Gardening Club of Montgomery County. \$2.00

WALKING TOURS OF WASHINGTON. We think this is one of the best of the walking guides and it only costs \$1.50.

THE OUTDOOR SCULPTURE OF WASHINGTON DC: This Smithsonian Press book tells you all about the sculpture of DC with over 400 illustrations. \$8.95

ZOO BOOK: The cover photo of a Bengal tiger resting at the edge of a pond provides a striking welcome to this photo-filled book on what's in the National Zoo and how it's cared for. \$5.00

GREATER WASHINGTON AREA BICYCLE ATLAS: This guide is now in its second edition and is a must for anyone who likes to take bike trips in the area. \$3.50

ALONG THE CANAL

CANAL BOAT CHILDREN: A nicely illustrated paperback describing the life of children who worked and lived on the C&O and other canals. \$3.

LIFE ON THE C&O CANAL: An illustrated, first person account of life on the C&O Canal in 1859. \$2.50

TOWPATH GUIDE TO THE C&O CANAL: Georgetown to Seneca. \$3.

C&O CANAL OLD PICTURE ALBUM: \$4.95

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MARION EIN AND ALICE SHABECOFF

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